

## Heavy fighting occurs in south Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (R) — There were heavy clashes on Tuesday between the Lebanese resistance and Israeli forces in south Lebanon, a pro-Israeli militia security source said. There were conflicting reports on the results of the clashes, which occurred in the Wadi Al Siooki area on the edge of the central sector of Israel's self-declared 15-kilometre-deep south Lebanon security zone. The pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army militia security source said two guerrillas were killed in the fighting. But in Beirut, Amal said its guerrillas attacked Israeli troops in the area and killed many soldiers without suffering any losses. "Our guerrillas were involved in fierce fighting with the troops of the Israeli enemy for half an hour. They killed and wounded many Israeli soldiers before they returned safe to their base," a statement by Amal faxed to Reuters said. In a separate statement, Amal said its guerrillas attacked an Israeli position in the same sector "causing many casualties."

## Actress Turk no longer wants fame

CAIRO (AFP) — Actress Turk, who has been a household name in Egypt for years, said she no longer wanted fame. She said she was tired of the constant media attention and the pressure of being a public figure. She mentioned that she had been in several films and had a successful career, but she felt that the fame had become a burden. She said she wanted to live a more private life and focus on her family.

## More light shed on Nixon's scheming

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A new book by a former aide to President Richard Nixon sheds more light on the president's private life and his political maneuvering. The book, titled 'The President's Men', provides a detailed account of Nixon's inner circle and the challenges he faced during his presidency.

## Netanyahu votes for motion to reoccupy Hebron 'in error'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu voted "by mistake" in favour of a failed motion on Monday calling for the Israeli army to move back into all of the West Bank town of Hebron, public radio said. "The government leader and the majority of ministers were pronounced in favour of the text following a technical error in the voting procedure," said Meir Sheerit, head of the parliamentary group of Mr. Netanyahu's rightwing Likud Party. The motion was eventually rejected by the Knesset by 41 votes to 23, the radio said.

## Bahrain's premier in hospital for medical tests

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa has been admitted to hospital on the island for a medical checkup, a government official said Tuesday. "Thank God, he is well," the official told Reuters without elaborating. Local newspapers said Sheikh Khalifa, a brother of Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Issa Ben Sulman Al Khalifa, was admitted with an ailment, but did not say when or give further details.

## Arab League rejects sending observers to Lockerbie trial

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League Tuesday rejected a British invitation to send observers to any trial in Scotland of two Libyans suspected of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland. "The invitation from British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook has no legal basis and is totally ineffective," Ahmad Ben Helli, the league's deputy secretary for Arab affairs, told reporters in Cairo. Mr. Helli said the invitation only confirmed Britain's "intransigent position" in the Lockerbie affair. Mr. Cook on Sunday repeated British calls for trying the two Libyan suspects in Scotland. He invited the Arab League to send observers to assure that any trial would be fair. The Arab League has said any trial of the two Libyan suspects should be held in a neutral country.

## Explosion rips through Beirut bus station, no casualties

BEIRUT (AFP) — An explosion ripped through Beirut's main bus station on Tuesday evening, sparking panic among scores of passengers and staff but causing no casualties, Lebanese police said. It was the second blast in the city in less than 24 hours, following a bomb explosion at the American University in Beirut (AUB) in the early hours of Tuesday. Police said they believed an explosive charge was contained in an abandoned suitcase in a parking area at the newly-opened Charles Helou bus terminal near the port in the eastern sector of the city. In the early hours of Tuesday, unidentified attackers riding a motorcycle hurled an explosive device on to the AUB campus, and it detonated between two buildings housing teachers and their families, police said. The university blast was the first attack on a foreign institution here for at least four years.

# Jordan, Russia criticise Netanyahu for stalemate

## Primakov unable to reach tangible results during meetings in Israel

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Russia Tuesday criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and said that resurrection of the peace process was not possible while Israel refuses to trade land-for-peace. While the visiting Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, said that he was unable to reach any tangible results during talks with Israeli officials, His Majesty King Hussein reiterated Jordan's full support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination on their national soil.

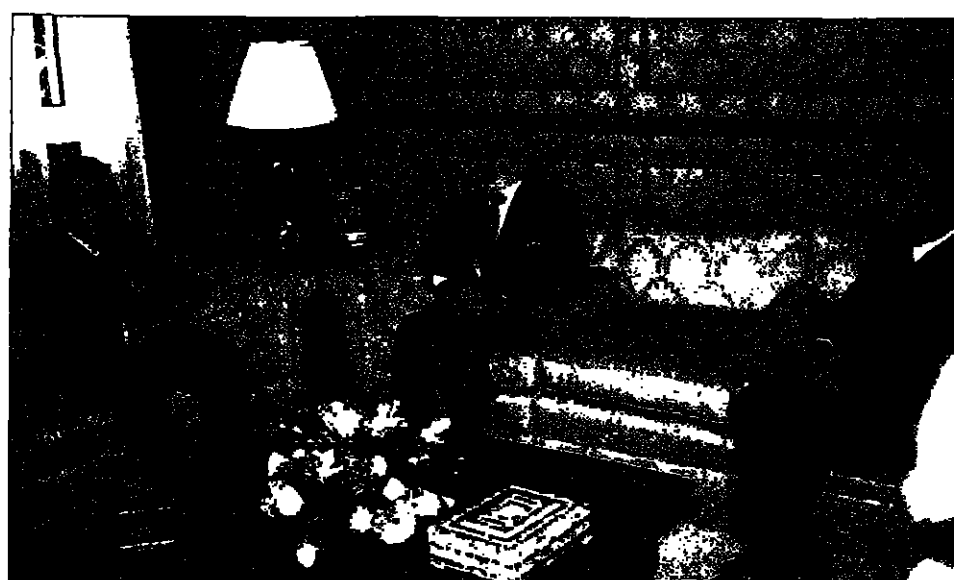
The King stressed on the need to consolidate American, Russian and European efforts to overcome the logjam in the peace process and to push for a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who held talks with the Russian minister, said that no peace was possible in the region without an Israeli pullout from occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Netanyahu's perception of peace "is neither logical nor acceptable," Dr. Majali was quoted as telling the Russian envoy.

"It is not possible to understand Netanyahu's statement that he wants peace unless he gives back Arab lands to its people," a Prime Ministry official quoted Dr. Majali as saying during his talks with the Russian official.

"Mr. Netanyahu's claim to give security the utmost priority... is unacceptable



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan confer with visiting Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov on Tuesday (photo by Yousef Allan)

because security can only be achieved through peace," the official source, who asked not to be named, quoted Dr. Majali as saying.

"The Israeli government should understand that peace will not be accomplished without returning occupied Arab lands. Peace is the ideal atmosphere that ensures security and stability," Dr. Majali was quoted as saying.

The official quoted the visiting Russian minister, who was on his fourth leg of a Middle East tour that took him to Lebanon, Israel, the Palestinian self-rule areas and twice to Syria, as saying it is "not easy" to overcome the stalled peace talks.

"We are not happy with the Israeli reaction. Despite [Israeli] promises to be flexible in some points, like

the Gaza airport, we believe that this is not enough," the Jordanian official quoted Mr. Primakov as saying.

"The most important thing now is the redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank. Therefore, after talks with the Israelis, our optimism was weakened," Mr. Primakov said.

The Russian official, who met with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in Tel Aviv earlier this week, told Dr. Majali that the "Israeli military establishment was exercising pressure on the government to authorise a new attack against Hizbollah in southern Lebanon."

"This is a very dangerous matter and might lead to an explosion... it requires coming up with an immediate solution to reach an understanding to revive the April 1996 agreement," said the

minister, referring to the Israeli-Lebanese ceasefire agreement in the aftermath of the so-called Grapes of Wrath military operation against Hizbollah fighters in south Lebanon (see separate story).

The Russian envoy also expressed "concern" towards the Turkish-Israeli military "understanding," describing it as a "very dangerous development," the Jordanian official who attended the Majali-Primakov meeting said.

"In short, the situation is not easy. We are not feeling comfortable towards the atmosphere in the region," the official quoted Mr. Primakov as saying.

Mr. Primakov praised Jordan for its role in peace-making in the region and

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## Government moves to correct electoral process 'irregularities'



By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Council of Ministers issued yesterday a package of measures aimed to make more transparent the Nov. 4 polls and correct irregularities in pre-election procedures, the official spokesperson for the elections, Mazen Armouti, announced Tuesday.

Computer disks containing the list of registered voters in the Amman area were made available to all interested journalists as of yesterday, while, Dr. Armouti said, voting lists pertaining to the other constituencies will be distributed to the media as of today, Wednesday.

In a bid to counter what Dr. Armouti described as "a widespread irregularity, almost a common practice in some rural areas," namely the illegal confiscation by some candidates of hundreds of voting cards from the poll stations, the government has also "issued formal requests to those candidates to return [the voter cards they have confiscated]."

Dr. Armouti stated that the government was determined

to "use all its authority" in order to ensure the return of confiscated cards to the polling stations and told reporters that uncompliant candidates will be punished to the maximum extent of the law.

In the past weeks, voters have increasingly denounced that, once they showed up at their designate station to collect their voting cards, they found out that they were "lost," or had been taken by somebody presenting forged power of attorney documents.

"The government has knowledge of a spectrum of irregularities," Dr. Armouti admitted, but also stressed that candidates and campaign aides were to be blamed for most of them, and reiterated the impartiality of the government and its commitment to ensure free and fair elections.

Dr. Armouti said voters will be requested to produce at the polling station an identification document (passport, identity card, family book or driving licence) in addition to their voting cards.

In a bid to avoid that the same person casts his/her vote twice or more times, he said the identification document will be stamped and the voters' name in the computer list at the poll station will be marked after the vot-

## 10 candidates referred to prosecutor for fraud

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ten candidates were referred yesterday to the prosecutor general for attempting to collect voter cards using forged power of attorney documents, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted unnamed sources at the Amman Governor Office as saying.

According to Petra, the candidates, belonging to various Amman's electoral districts, were questioned and ordered to return the cards.

Sources at Amman Governor Tala' al Nawaish's office were quoted as saying that the measures were taken following voters' complaints that their cards had been collected by other parties without their authorisations.

This measure seems to fall short of the expectations of opposition candidates, who have in the past weeks demanded that only the family book be accepted as identification document at the polling stations and computerised voting lists in all districts be linked in a network, so that the same person cannot vote in more than one district.

As for another concern voiced by opposition candidates, the fact that names of members of the security and armed forces, who are barred from voting according to the Elections Law, appeared in the final lists of registered voters, Dr. Armouti explained that "the law stipulates that all Jordanian citizens have the right to register their names, including soldiers."

He said that, though they

are registered, the authorities will make sure that they do not cast their vote, as their names are especially marked on the computer lists.

Figures released yesterday by the office of the official spokesperson for the elections responded to opposition candidates' allegations that the number of registered voters (1,890,035) was too high when compared to the Kingdom's total population and the number of citizens below 19.

According to the official figures released yesterday, Jordan's total population stands at 4,580,234 — 1,970,000 of which below the voting age.

The registered voters ratio to total population was announced at 41 per cent.

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## Yemeni president concludes visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Tuesday concluded a two-day official visit to the Kingdom during which he had talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials. President Saleh discussed with the King bilateral ties, inter-Arab action and Arab and regional issues, particularly the peace process. President Saleh was seen off at the airport by the King, Royal family members, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, King's advisers, Cabinet members, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Miral Kaabneh as well as senior civil and military officials. The president earlier received Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh and discussed with him issues of common concern and the peace process.

## Plunges on Wall Street, Asia launch global panic-selling

LONDON (AP) — Stock Market panic circled the globe Tuesday, with Wall Street accelerating the sell-off after Hong Kong suffered its worst one-day losses since 1989 and London shares tumbled to their steepest point losses in history.

The Dow Jones industrial average opened with a quick loss of more than 125 points — showing that even the world's most powerful market was unable to escape the carnage that began last week with a speculative assault on Hong Kong's currency.

Traders were left hoping they could ride out the turbulence, but safe havens were hard to find.

"It's very difficult to avoid the global meltdown that's taking place at the

moment," said Neil Mackinnon, chief economist with Citibank in London.

Markets have not been thrown into such turmoil since the crash of 1987, although finance leaders pleaded for calm and private analysts said current economics are far different now than they were then.

"There's no doubt that investor sentiment's been badly rattled," Mr. Mackinnon said.

Dealing screens at the London Stock Exchange, Europe's biggest bourse, lit up in a glowing red from the opening to indicate the market was full of sellers with few buyers.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share Index was off by 321.6 points, or 6.6 per cent, at 4,519.1 in the late after-

noon, showing a slight rise immediately after a confused opening on Wall Street, where sell orders overwhelmed the buyers.

The mid-afternoon losses in London were huge, but things had been worse in the morning. The blue-chip "footie" hit an early low by falling 457.9 points, nearly 9.5 per cent, to 4,382.8 — almost doubling the record 250-point drop from the crash of 1987.

"You're just going to see us following all the other markets," said James Dewhurst, an equity salesman at Charterhouse Tilney Securities in London. "I don't think I've got any bright ideas beyond that."

Throughout global (Continued on page 7)

## Israel examining new methods in confrontation with Hizbollah

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel is re-examining the army's methods in south Lebanon after a series of setbacks in clashes with Hizbollah, as Iran boosts supplies of weapons to the guerrilla group, media reports said on Monday.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai held a series of meetings with top advisors Sunday amid rising concern in Israel over Hizbollah's new high-tech weaponry and a lack of intelligence information about the group.

The Maariv newspaper said the Lebanese resistance group had obtained

new anti-tank rockets capable of piercing the armour of a Merkava II, Israel's most modern tank, which contains extra-thick armour plating made of special metal intended to reduce the effect of a rocket attack.

On two occasions this month, Hizbollah rockets have smashed through the armour plating of the Merkava II in south Lebanon, killing an Israeli soldier each time.

The Maariv newspaper said the rockets fired by Hizbollah were probably similar to American-made TOWs with a range of 3.5 kilometres.

Israel's second television channel reported Monday that 50 aircraft from Iran had arrived in Syria over the past few months carrying weapons destined for Hizbollah.

It quoted Israeli intelligence officials as saying that Iran, Israel's arch-enemy, had markedly increased its arms deliveries to the group, particularly of anti-tank rockets similar to the TOWs.

"Hizbollah is getting stronger," army chief of staff, General Amnon Shashak, told a group of school

(Continued on page 7)

## Israel arrests 13 Palestinian students in 2nd raid on village

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — The Israeli army arrested 13 Palestinian students linked to Islamist groups overnight in the second raid in 24 hours on a village outside Bethlehem, Palestinian security sources said Tuesday.

Israeli troops entered the West Bank village of Teqoua late Monday night and arrested the 13 university students from their homes, the sources said. The army had already arrested 16 students from the same village in a raid before dawn on Monday. Most of the students

were suspected members of Islamic Jihad, while the rest were thought to belong to Hamas.

Israel has arrested hundreds of activists suspected of ties to Islamist groups since Hamas suicide bombings in Jerusalem in July and September.

Israeli security forces have been on alert against possible bomb attacks by Islamic Jihad as the group marked the second anniversary Sunday of the assassination of its leader, Fathi Shikaki, by presumed Israeli agents in

Malta. The new Jihad leader, Ramadan Abdullah Shalal, warned Friday that the group would pursue "without respite" a campaign of suicide bombings in Israel, as some 1,000 supporters of the group rallied at Bethlehem University.

Islamic Jihad and the larger Hamas movement have led violent opposition against Israeli-Palestinian self-rule accords, conducting a series of bombings which have killed scores of Israelis since 1994.



VISITING WHERE HOME USED TO STAND: Palestinians express their anger on the ruins of their house Tuesday in the village of Zaatara outside the West Bank city of Bethlehem. The Israeli army demolished three Palestinian homes in Zaatara (see story on page 2) (AFP photo)



# Israeli army demolishes three Palestinian homes in W. Bank

ZAATARA (AFP) — The Israeli army demolished three Palestinian homes Tuesday in villages around the West Bank town of Bethlehem, including one house where a family of 10 resided, witnesses and family said.

An army bulldozer accompanied by Israeli troops tore down the home of Munzer Ahmad Wahsh, where he lived with his wife and eight children in Zaatara village south of Bethlehem.

"I've lived here for four years and I had a permit for my house and everything. I don't know where I'll go now," Mr. Wahsh told Agence France Presse.

A second home still under construction, owned by Mohammad Hassan Salameh, was also demolished in Zaatara.

A third house owned by Hussein Khalil Zir, also still under construction, was demolished in the neighbouring village of Harmala, witnesses said.

An army spokesman could not be reached immediately for comment on the demolitions. The Israeli army regularly destroys Palestinian homes which it says were built without permits.

Palestinians counter that Israeli occupation authorities never issue such permits in areas under their control, and accuse Israel of using home demolitions to clear areas of the West Bank of Palestinian residents.

A report by the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem a month ago said Israel had demolished over 100 homes so far this year.



PROTESTING LAND CONFISCATION: Israeli soldiers on Tuesday block the way for Palestinians demonstrating against land confiscation in the West Bank village of Beit El. Dozens of Palestinians protested against the Israeli government's continued confiscation of their lands which the Palestinians claim is being used to expand the Jewish settlements (Reuters photo)

# Netanyahu wants 20 per cent hike in funds for Jewish settlements

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government was due to present a 1998 budget to parliament Tuesday calling for a 20 per cent boost in spending on Jewish settlements in Palestinian National Authority (PNA) ruled areas, according to the anti-settlement group Peace Now.

"The government budget calls for investment of \$285 million in the settlements for 1998, which represents a 20 per cent increase over the previous year," Peace Now Director Moshe Raz told Agence France Presse.

Mr. Raz said funds for building and infrastructure development for Jewish settlements in the occupied territories are hidden throughout the government budget proposal but that his figure of \$285 million comprised only direct investment and aid for the settlements.

He said the total spending including both direct and indirect aid was certainly far higher than \$285 million but he provided no figures.

Mr. Netanyahu's policy of expanding Jewish settlement in areas occupied by

Israel since the 1967 Mideast war where Palestinians hope to create their own state has plunged peace negotiations with the Palestinians into crisis.

The talks broke down in March when Netanyahu ordered work begun on a controversially large Jewish settlement on the hilltop of Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians hope to make the capital of a future state.

Since then, Mr. Netanyahu has repeatedly rebuffed calls from the Palestinians, backed by the U.S. and virtually the entire world community, for at least a freeze on settlement building to permit negotiations on a final peace accord with the PNA.

Most recently he has refused to authorise negotiations to attend talks on the settlement issue scheduled in Washington this week with senior PNA officials and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

As part of his right-wing government's support for settlement growth, Mr. Netanyahu has granted Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip the status of "priority devel-

opment zones." This provides a host of financial incentives to Israelis who purchase units in settlements. Total cost of extending the status to settlements was estimated at \$100 million by Peace Now.

The agriculture minister is also slated to provide \$60 million to help farming in the settlements.

A further \$60 million is to be set aside to compensate Palestinians for land seized to build Jewish settlements in Arab east Jerusalem while \$28 million is budgeted for building special roads for settlers in the West Bank.

Spending on security for the settlements is also due to increase by 60 per cent to \$3.7 million, Mr. Raz said.

"These investments should allow for an increase of around 15,000 in the number of settlement dwellers next year," he said.

Peace Now estimated that the number of residents in the 140 West Bank and Gaza Strip settlements has already risen by 7,000-8,000 this year to total 158,000.

# 17 killed in Algeria since elections

ALGIERS (AFP) — Seventeen people have been killed in the latest spate of violence to hit Algeria, press reports said here Tuesday.

Security forces killed two armed extremists, the reports said, but the government's landslide victory in last week's municipal elections appears to have had little immediate effect on the bloodletting.

Three people were killed Sunday evening in Sig, near the city of Oran in western Algeria when their car was forced to stop at a road block erected by suspected

extremists engaged in a five-year battle to overthrow President Liamine Zeroual's military-backed regime.

Three more civilians were killed in the eastern Tébessa region late Sunday, the reports said, adding that the circumstances were unclear.

The killings follow the murder of five people in a car bomb blast in the same region last Thursday, as the elections were being held.

Five more people were reported murdered the same day in Oued-Djellil, in the Tlemcen region.

A bomb blast in front of a

mosque near Tlemcen killed one person and wounded several on Saturday. The daily Liberté said that security forces killed two armed fundamentalists in the Kabilia region.

Algeria plunged into civil war after the army intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of general elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) were poised to win.

More than 60,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the five-year civil war.

# Khamenei lauds Lebanon for backing resistance

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei praised Lebanon's government Tuesday for supporting Islamists fighting Israel in south Lebanon, as the country's prime minister wrapped up a four-day visit.

"The Islamic republic and Iranian people, interested in Lebanon's fate, are pleased with the Lebanese government for approving and reinforcing the Islamic resistance," Ayatollah Khamenei said in talks here with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The Iranian leader also heaped praise on the Lebanese

people for fighting to evict Israel from the buffer strip of land it has occupied in south Lebanon in 1985.

"Today the Lebanese people — be it Shiite, Sunni or Christian — are heroes to the Arab and Muslim World and deeply respected," he said. "They have withstood Zionist oppression and aggression with their blood and skin. History will never forget this glory." Khamenei urged various ethnic groups in Lebanon to seek "friendship and cooperation" and said Iran was ready to boost cooperation with the Lebanese government in various fields.

He also reiterated his country's opposition to the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace process, saying Iran "predicted from the first day that it would be a fruitless" endeavour. Mr. Hariri assured Ayatollah Khamenei of his government's support for the resistance, according to the radio. Before departing, the premier described his visit, the first to Iran by a Lebanese head of government in 23 years, as "successful".

"We got what we wanted in the direction of strengthening relations, notably in economic matters," he said. "They will be

particularly beneficial to Lebanon."

Hariri, who was heading an economic delegation of several ministers, said he also discussed issues related to the Middle East with Iranian leaders. "With respect to the region, we saw support from the other side," he said.

Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi, who was accompanying his guest to the airport, also spoke of "expanded relations in all areas" and of "good results." He said the two countries signed four agreements on trade, transport and investment.

# Palestinian woman rearrested

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Israeli army has rearrested a Palestinian woman freed earlier this year in a general release of female prisoners, her family and human rights groups said on Tuesday.

The army arrested Nadia Dheeb Haddad, 37, in early August outside the West Bank town of Bethlehem, the Mandela Institute, a Palestinian group for prisoners' rights told Agence France Presse (AFP) Tuesday.

Ms. Haddad had been released in February, along with 29 other Palestinian women serving prison terms for various anti-Israeli activities, in a prisoner release laid out under self-rule accords between Israel and the Palestinians.

A relative of Ms. Haddad, who asked not to be named, told AFP that Ms. Haddad "had been headed from Bethlehem into east Jerusalem to visit her sister when she was arrested by soldiers at the checkpoint at Bethlehem's northern entrance." A week ago, Israeli soldiers arrested another of the 30 released women prisoners.

## Israeli Arab tourists briefly held in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian authorities briefly detained two Israeli Arab tourists caught pointing cameras at a bridge across the Nile River in Cairo, an Israeli diplomat said Tuesday. Lior Ben-Dor, spokesman at the Israeli embassy, told Reuters that the two men had been escorted to a police station after taking photographs of the Imbaba Bridge over the Nile and had been freed half an hour later. "Two Israelis were seen the day before yesterday taking photographs of Imbaba Bridge and were accompanied to one of the police stations, but were released after 30 minutes," he said. He said the Israelis had not been in touch with the embassy, which had enquired about the case after media reports.

## Spain to give Palestinians new public park

JERICHO (AFP) — Spain agreed Tuesday to contribute nearly \$1 million over the next year for a new public garden in the West Bank town of Jericho, the Palestinian Local Affairs Minister Saeb Erakat said. Mr. Erakat said

he signed with the Spanish Consul to Israel Manuel Cacho an agreement for Madrid to donate \$400,000 for the first stage of building the park in the centre of Jericho. Spain will give another \$500,000 for later stages of the building, which is to be completed next year, Mr. Erakat told journalists. The 29-hectare park will have gardens, a pond and a playground for children, as part of plans to develop tourism in Jericho, the site of the world's oldest reported city.

## 27% of Israeli religious youth supported Rabin murder

TEL AVIV (AFP) — More than a quarter of religiously observant teenagers in Israel supported the 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish extremist opposed to the peace process, according to a survey published Tuesday. David Green, a clinical psychologist at Tel Aviv's Bar-Ilan University, carried out the survey among youths aged 14 to 18 two months after Rabin was gunned down in Tel Aviv on Nov. 4, 1995. Among those teenagers who described themselves as religiously observant, 27 per cent said they supported the killing of Rabin, while 4.5 per cent of secular

youths said they favoured his murder. Dr. Green told the Haaretz newspaper, which published the results of his survey on Tuesday, that the teenagers related to Rabin's slaying "as if it were an unexpected but inevitable natural disaster."

## Saudi Arabia expels 180 Cameroonian illegal workers

YAOUNDE (AFP) — One hundred eighty Cameroon citizens who were expelled by Saudi Arabia because they did not have working papers arrived home overnight in a special plane, state radio reported Tuesday. The plane flew them directly to Maroua, in the far north of Cameroon, where they were being housed at a branch office of the ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (RDPC) before returning to their home villages, the radio said. The group was the "first contingent of Cameroonians to be expelled" from Saudi Arabia, authorities here said. Provincial governor Mochipou Saidou said on meeting the deportees at the Maroua-Salak airport late Monday that Riyadh had a sovereign right to expel the workers, many of whom had stayed on after going to Saudi Arabia as Hajj pilgrims.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

## PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 .....Jonny Quest  
14:30 .....Super Dave  
15:00 Secrets of Treasure Island  
15:30 .....Super Dave  
16:00 .....Monsters Today  
16:30 .....Border Town  
17:00 .....French Programmes  
19:00 .....News in French  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....Neighborhoods  
20:00 .....Grace Under Fire  
20:30 .....Challenges  
21:10 .....Kung Fu 3  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....Land's End  
23:15 .....American Gothic  
23:59 .....End of T.X.

## PRAYER TIMES

04:27 .....Fajr  
05:45 .....(Sunrise)Duba  
11:19 .....Dhuhr  
14:26 .....Asr  
16:54 .....Maghreb  
18:12 .....Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

## De la Salle Church Tel.

667757.  
Terza Santa Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 5516245  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Temperatures are expected to rise becoming 3-4 degrees centigrade above average with clouds appearing at different altitudes. There will be a chance of showers particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the Kingdom and winds southeasterly moderate.

## In Aqaba, it will be partly

cloudy with a chance of scattered showers, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.  
Amman .....14/28  
Aqaba .....19/34  
Deserts .....12/30  
Jordan Valley .....17/32

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 27, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Aff Shukri .....898863  
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh .....827195  
Dr. Sa'id Tawfiq .....788285  
Dr. Hanna Mansour .....750197  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....890280  
Al Asema pharmacy .....637055  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660  
Nairoukh pharmacy .....623672  
Najib pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qanu .....281484  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(---)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Ratiq Atallah .....994424  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

## EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111  
Civil Defence Department .....661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200

## Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, 642481/6  
Akhil Maternity, 642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine Shmeisani 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3  
Al-Bashir, .....775111/26  
Army, Marka .....891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50  
Amal Hospital .....674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital

## (02)247100 AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

## FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

## ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:25 .....Damascus (RJ)  
07:50 .....Larnaca (RJ)  
08:35 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
08:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:50 .....Istanbul (RJ)  
17:45 .....Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
17:50 .....Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
18:10 .....London, Berlin (RJ)  
18:40 .....Paris, Brussels (RJ)  
19:50 .....Rome (RJ)  
20:35 .....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
23:10 .....Beirut (RJ)

## 00:05 .....Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights  
05:50 .....Bucharest (RO)  
09:30 .....Cairo (MS)  
09:30 .....Al 'Arish (PF)  
10:15 Doha, Al Hudaidah (LY)  
10:30 .....Jeddah (SV)  
10:50 .....Kuwait (KU)  
13:10 .....Tunis (TU)  
13:25 Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
13:50 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
14:30 .....Doha (QR)  
15:05 .....Vienna (OS)  
15:50 .....Algiers (AH)  
16:05 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)  
20:10 .....Beirut (ME)  
21:10 .....Paris, Damascus (AF)  
22:30 .....Athens (OA)  
23:15 .....London (BA)  
23:30 .....London, Beirut (BA)  
23:35 .....Amsterdam (KL)

## DEPARTURES

Royal Wings (RW)  
07:45 .....Aqaba (RW)  
09:05 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
09:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:20 .....Tel Aviv (RW)  
18:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:20 .....Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
08:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
09:50 .....Aqaba, Rome (RJ)  
10:40 .....Berlin, London (RJ)  
11:00 .....Istanbul (RJ)

## 18:20 .....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)

19:10 .....Colombo (RJ)  
19:35 .....Beirut (RJ)  
20:05 .....Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
20:10 .....Cairo (RJ)  
20:15 .....Bahrain, Doha (ME)  
20:15 .....Bombay (RJ)  
20:30 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
21:00 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
22:00 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
22:45 .....Sanaa (RJ)

## Other Flights

00:35 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
01:55 .....Bucharest (RO)  
06:35 .....Larnaca (CY)  
08:00 .....Beirut (ME)  
08:25 .....London (BA)  
10:30 .....Cairo (MS)  
10:30 .....Al 'Arish (PF)  
11:15 Al Hudaidah, Aden (YV)  
12:00 .....Kuwait (KU)  
12:00 .....Jeddah (SV)  
14:10 .....Tunis (TU)  
14:20 .....Sharjah (AH)  
15:15 .....Bahrain, Muscat (GF)  
15:10 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
15:30 .....Doha (QR)  
15:50 .....Vienna (OS)  
19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)  
23:55 .....Damascus, Paris (AF)

## Royal Wings (RW)

06:45 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
08:15 .....Aqaba (RW)  
09:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
16:45 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:55 .....Tel Aviv (RW)  
20:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:50 .....Aqaba (RW)



# Home News



Issa Jahmani, Jawad Anani, Leila Sharaf, and Asma Khader (left to right) attend the first day of the "Media and Press Freedom in Jordan" seminar (Petra photo)

## Differing views of free speech clash at opening session of press seminar

By Amy Henderson  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Western and official Jordanian perceptions of freedom of expression and press freedom clashed yesterday at a seminar held to discuss the media's role and press freedoms in strengthening democracy.

Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani engaged Toby Mendel, head of the Law Programme at Article 19, a London-based press freedom group, in a debate over the coverage of national security and other issues during the afternoon session of the two-day seminar, which brought together senior officials, newspaper editors, legal experts, and media observers.

The seminar, held under the title "The Media and Press Freedom in Jordan," opened yesterday and is co-hosted by Article 19, the newly-established Arab Media Institute (AMI), and Al Urdun Al Jadid research centre.

Mr. Mendel said it was "natural for governments to wish to restrict discussion [in the media] of matters relating to national security," which is permitted under international law when a government demonstrates that "the expression is intended to incite imminent violence; it is likely to incite such violence and there is a direct and immediate connection between the expression and the likelihood of occurrence of such violence."

Other forms of expression, in particular expression of a political nature, should not be regulated, he said, and would, in fact, enhance national security. Jordan's Press and Publications Law forbids the publication of any information regarding the armed forces, its weaponry, or movements without prior authorisation.

Dr. Anani countered that Jordan, owing to geographical location, historically has not shared the same security concerns as other countries.

"Jordan has lived in crisis throughout its history, largely owing to its location in the region," he said. "It has always been a vulnerable country, subject to much external pressure, so we can't speak of freedom of the press as if stability has always been a norm for us."

Jordan has a geopolitical vulnerability which it cannot afford to overlook at the expense of allowing a totally free press, he said. He gave as an example the necessity of having an article in the press law that prohibits newspapers from attacking friendly heads of state.

Dr. Anani also said Mr. Mendel had overlooked certain cultural dimensions when comparing standards of press freedoms in the West to those in Jordan and other countries.

At the morning session, Article 19 Deputy Director Malcolm Smart said that although his group was "shocked by the amendments to the press law, which have... resulted in the enforced closure of no less than 13 weeklies... I have to say that when we reacted strongly against the press law changes, we were able to discuss our concerns directly and frankly with Jordan's ambassador in London."

"We welcomed that opportunity because... it reflected an openness on the government's part to initiate a dialogue, which in itself is an important element of freedom of expression," Mr. Smart said.

The seminar also attracted participation by Amman-based correspondents for news agencies abroad. Former ARD (German foreign radio) correspondent Marcel Pot said although a legal resolution had to be found in order to "hold weekly newspapers responsible for... infringing on personal rights of public and well-known private figures," the new provisions of the Press and Publications Law are "... formulated as such that they can easily be used as a

means of censorship throughout critical journalism."

The editor of a daily newspaper, now standing trial for publishing a news item related to national security, said that amendments to the press law, introduced in May, had put the papers on par with the Official Gazette.

"Other Arab papers published similar items to what we published," said Taher Adwan, chief editor of Al Arab Al Yawm. "Nevertheless, we're on trial. The government has tried to convince us that the amendments were aimed at the weeklies, but we see this isn't so. It put grave restrictions on everyone."

"But [Jordanians] are growing increasingly convinced of the importance of press freedoms while the government is sending the message that press freedoms are dangerous. But the actions of the powerful are becoming more exposed as this contradiction continues," he said.

Asma Khader, a lawyer and member of the executive committee of the International Commission of Jurists, said that "the press law is not only unconstitutional but violates international law and the National Charter in that the harsh manner in which it was applied led to strong reactions that make its cancellation a necessity for the restoration of the peaceable rule of law and respect for the principles of justice, equality, and freedom."

"To deny the people a free and independent press is a denial of people's right for free expression and receiving information, for free dialogue and accountability, flow of information, and the fight against corruption," she said.

Also addressing yesterday's sessions were Hisham Tal, former minister of justice; former director of the Press and Publications Department Issa Jahmani; Mahmoud Al Kayed, chairman of the board of directors of Al Ra'i Arabic daily;

(Continued on page 7)

## Women candidates meet with students to discuss platforms, youth issues



By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over 100 university students Tuesday met with 11 of the 17 women candidates running in the Nov. 4 parliamentary race to inquire about their election campaign programmes and to voice their concerns and demands.

The three-hour public debate, which was held and organised by the Media Unit at the Princess Basma Women's Resource Centre (PBWRC), aimed at giving the youth a chance to express their ideas and problems, according to Farah Daghestani, director of the PBWRC.

"This meeting is only a beginning and hopefully it will pave the way for future meetings whereby more issues can be tackled," Ms. Daghestani told the gathering.

The youths, who were representing universities, clubs, and societies from several governorates, said they are seeking service-oriented candidates in the 13th Parliament who can fight for their demands and their communities' needs.

These issues, they said, include creating jobs for university graduates, establishing mixed-culture and youth clubs, organising a national conference for the youth, and providing transportation for university students.

They pointed to issues that they believed were impeding the progress of women, and said most of their problems and concerns are ignored by officials and decision-makers. "There is a gap between officials and the young generation, which is preventing us from expressing our opinion in the decision-making process," one participant said.

Further, participants criticised the social barriers and cultural beliefs that deter women from reaching Parliament.

"Women rarely compete for Parliament, and if they think of it, they are immediately criticised by their male colleagues and are told that it is a shame to run for Parliament," a woman from Tafleeh said.

Another woman from Na'our said women are being discriminated against, and "still they play the role of being followers to their husbands, which is hindering their progress and their chances of participating in the political life."

Another participant pointed to the threats that are endangering the environment and the ozone layer, and called on women candidates to raise this issue during their campaigns and when they reach the House.

The women candidates stressed their concern about the youths' problems, which they said are among their priorities if they reach Parliament.

"Most of the budget that is allocated for the youth by the government is being used for other matters, and this is an issue that I will fight for if I win," said Emily Naffa, who is running for the Amman Third District Christian seat.

For the Zarqa candidate Sabah Anani, who is running for the Muslim seat, building more clubs for the youth and allocating monthly salaries for athletes will be among her demands on behalf of the young generation.

Samira Tel, who is running for the Muslim seat in Irbid, said she will work on improving relations with neighbouring countries "in order to open the door for youths to work."

Fatmeh Obaidat, also running in Irbid for the Bani Kinaneh constituency, said she will concentrate on education rights for men and women of all ages and the establishment of clubs.

Nawal Momani, who is running in Ajloun, said her main concerns will be fighting unemployment and working for the establishment of investment projects to create job opportunities.

For Hafizak Ma'ayyah, an illiterate candidate who is running in Karak, demanding better investments and youth involvement in mineral resources (potash factory) will be her call in Parliament.

"We have all this mineral wealth but our youngsters

are unemployed. This will be the first issue I refer to officials," she said.

Ajayeb Hdayres, running in Balqa, said her programme addresses the concerns of the youth, which is mainly unemployment, and added "I am against the incentives and benefits that are provided to deputies, and instead I look to serve and represent my country and community."

The six women candidates who did not participate in the meeting are: Aysha Razem-Khwaja (Amman 1st District, Muslim seat), Toujan Feisal (3rd, Circassian), Norma Nassar (3rd, Christian), Fatmeh Hassouneh (4th, Muslim), Laila Feisal (5th, Muslim), and from Aqaba Da'ad Sultan Tami.

The Media Unit was initiated by the PBWRC, and was designed to assist women candidates in executing their election campaigns in a methodical fashion by providing documentation, transcription, advertisement design, and creation of statements and banners, as well as media consultation services.

## Cabinet reviews plan to restructure energy sector

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday heard a report by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Saleh Hourani on the outcome of his talks with the World Bank on securing loans to finance the restructuring of the Kingdom's energy sector and his recent visit to the U.S.

The World Bank and the Japanese Agency for Reconstruction and Development, which together have allocated \$160 million to help Jordan carry out development projects, have now given their consent to Jordan to withdraw the remaining \$40 million of that loan to finance the energy projects, he said.

The minister stated that once the energy sector has been restructured, it will be more attractive to local and foreign investors, especially in the field of power generation.

The restructuring of the energy sector will enable the National Electric Power Company to divide its activities into three areas, transmission, distribution and generation, and the creation of a private sector company specialising in oil and gas, he said.

The Council of Ministers approved an allocation of JD1.2 million to be paid next year to refugees in cash subsidies after food coupons have been discontinued. The Department for Palestinian Affairs will undertake the distribution process, according to the council.

The government recently decided to replace the food coupons next year with cash subsidies.

## Opposition unites in support of Haddadin



By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite their different stands vis-à-vis electoral participation, the opposition parties have unified their ranks in support of Khalil Haddadin, the Ba'athist candidate for Amman's 3rd District Christian seat, whose son was arrested three days ago on allegations of drug smuggling.

In a press communiqué issued yesterday, the Higher Committee for Coordination Among the Opposition Parties (HCCOAP), which includes the powerful Islamic Action Front (IAF), criticised the publication and circulation of the name of Mr. Haddadin's son by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, shortly after the

arrest. "The official media have initiated a campaign to incriminate Mr. Haddadin's son before the court makes a decision," the statement said.

The publication of the suspect's name before trial "is against the law, against common practice, and against the role of the authorities and the departments to protect citizens and their right to be considered innocent until proven guilty."

Calling upon the government "to start an investigation in order to punish those responsible for publicising this case, especially in consideration of the fact that security forces have always been careful not to mention a suspect's name before trial," the HCCOAP demanded an "end to this saga against Mr. Haddadin, for justice to take its course in a natural manner, away from sensationalism."

The circulation of the name of Mr. Haddadin's son among the press "is also contrary to government's directives forbidding parties and the media to discuss cases that are not yet in before the law and,

finally, it ignores the legal principle that every citizen is responsible for what he or she does, whereas no party is responsible for the action of another," the statement added.

Before the arrest of his son for allegedly smuggling 5.5 kg of heroin from Lebanon to a third Arab country via Jordan, Mr. Haddadin was indicated by local political commentators as a favourite.

At the beginning of the three-week campaign period, some of Mr. Haddadin's banners were removed because they carried slogans against the "Zionist enemy."

Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid said he ordered Mr. Haddadin's banners down because they "did not reflect the general public's orientation." Mr. Rashid also accused Mr. Haddadin of financing his electoral campaign through "foreign sources," an allusion to the Iraqi faction of the Ba'athist Party, to which Mr. Haddadin is affiliated.

"The committee recognises that the government is engaged now within the framework of electoral

management in bringing down all the banners that it does not like and is allowing voting card chaos, opening the door to most forms of election fraud, including issuing voting cards to the dead, and multiple cards to the living."

Confronted with the issue of the release of the name of Mr. Haddadin's son after his arrest, the official spokesperson for the elections, Mazen Armouti, told a press conference yesterday that the matter was not his concern, as "it [was] not election-related in a technical sense."

Together with Mr. Haddadin's Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party and the IAF, the HCCOAP includes nine other opposition parties: The Arab Ba'ath Progressive Party, Arab Land Party, Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, Jordan Communist Party, Al Haq, Hashd, the Jordan Arab Constitutional Front, the National Action Front, and Al Ansar.

After negotiations for a unified opposition boycott failed this summer, five of these parties are taking part in the upcoming elections.

## Traffic accidents last week kill 14; department cites poor planning as leading cause of accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — The Traffic Department Tuesday released the accident figures of the week of Oct. 18-25, which showed that 674 accidents killed 14 people and injured 30 others.

The department said most of the victims were between 21 and 30 years of age.

Jordan last year witnessed 33,784 road accidents, which killed 552 people, injured 15,375 others, and caused material losses estimated at JD100 million, expected to rise to JD150 million by the end of the century,

according to Colonel Fakhri Iskandar, head of the Traffic Department, Tuesday.

In a lecture delivered at the Amman Rotary Club, Col. Iskandar attributed the high number of accidents to rapid urban growth and the increase in the number of vehicles on the roads following the 1973 economic boom.

However, the growth in population and the number of vehicles was not coupled with appropriate city planning and the development of the road network, he said.

Col. Iskandar noted that

the largest group, 90.9 per cent, of the accident victims in 1996 were children aged 15 years and below, followed by youths aged 16 to 20 years.

He attributed this to several factors, including the fact that most schools are built on main streets where traffic congestion is highest, the lack of education programmes for children on traffic rules, disregard of motorists for pedestrians at crossings, and the lack of playgrounds and gardens for children to play and spend their free time.

A Traffic Department

survey revealed that 83.2 per cent of road accidents are the fault of the drivers, and most accidents occur because motorists ignore traffic rules, exceed speed limits, drive under the influence of alcohol, and in the case of public vehicle drivers, work long hours, according to Col. Iskandar.

Col. Iskandar proposed that drivers be rehabilitated, road networks be modernised, public awareness campaigns be launched on traffic rules, and stricter control be imposed on the roads.

## Opposition groups denounce new threats of Iraq sanctions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's 11 opposition political parties Tuesday declared their support for Iraq in the face of what they called renewed threats on the part of the U.S. and its allies to impose further sanctions on the Iraqi people.

The U.S. and the U.K., through the U.N. Security Council, have issued these threats due to its alleged lack of cooperation with U.N. weapons inspection teams, despite the objection of France, Russia,

and China, the statement said.

The new threats mean that the U.S. is completely ignoring Iraq's compliance with several U.N. resolutions and that it is intent on causing further suffering to the Iraqi people and devastating Iraq's economic and cultural structure while maintaining its hegemony over the northern and southern Iraqi regions, according to the statement.

Referring to Turkey's repeated incursions inside Iraqi territory, the statement said the U.S.

has been supporting Ankara in its bid to create a security zone inside Iraqi territory as a prelude towards partitioning the nation.

The opposition parties in Jordan declared their solidarity with the Iraqi people and express concern over these developments, which threaten the sovereignty of Iraq and Arab national security as a whole, the statement read.

The opposition parties also

condemned the continued starvation of Iraqi children and women and all hostile attempts to ruin Iraq's economy, the announcement continued.

The opposition called on the Arab countries to mobilise in support of the Iraqi people and to stand united in the face of U.S. pressure.

The parties called for a strong popular movement to end the Arab countries' sanctions on Iraq and to open their borders to supply its people with all basic

needs. The statement said the opposition groups will work to persuade the Iranian government to normalise relations with Iraq to protect Arab and Islamic national interests.

The statement thanked France, Russia, and China for their stand at the Security Council and stressed the need for these countries to resist the American domination of the council and work for lifting the embargo.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

**FILM**

- \* "Madame Bovary" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabbal Weibdeh at 8:30 p.m.
- \* Children's film "Dino Babies" at the British Council, Jabbal Amman at 5:00 p.m.

**CHOIR**

- \* Choir performance by the students of the Abhiyyah School for Girls at the Royal Cultural Centre, the main theatre, at 6:00 p.m.

**CONCERT**

- \* Piano recital by Jordanian Pianist Zeina Asfour (performing pieces by Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Chopin, Ravel, and Debussy) at the National Music Conservatory at 8:00 p.m. (Tel. 687620).

**JEWELRY/DESIGN SHOW**

- \* Jewelry show from Lebanon's "Sabika" workshop and show of designs by Lebanese artist May Rishani at Dart Al Fumun, Jabbal Weibdeh (Tel. 643251/2), until Oct. 30.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- \* Paintings by Patrice Cudennec at the French Cultural Centre, Jabbal Weibdeh, until Nov. 26.
- \* Graphics exhibition by Abdul Wahab Abdul Mohsen at Baladina Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5537598), until Nov. 5.
- \* Plastic (abstract) art by Iraqi artist Maha Isma'il at the Royal Cultural Centre, also displaying paintings by Dutch artist Jamal Khamsi, until Oct. 30.
- \* Ceramics exhibition at the Silsil Ceramics workshop, Jabbal Amman between 4th and 5th Circles, until Oct. 30 (Tel. 680128).
- \* Works by Bahraini artist Sheikh Rashid Al Khalifa at Darat Al Fumun, Jabbal Weibdeh, until Nov. 15. Also displaying a new collection of works by contemporary Arab artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- \* Ceramics exhibition by Ra'd Dlairi at Orfal Art Gallery, Umm Utaina, until Oct. 30.
- \* Paintings by Abdul Qader Bakheet at Institut Cervantes, Jabbal Amman, until Oct. 30.
- \* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Riham Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 658896/7), until Oct. 30.





## Chiluba addresses nation after coup attempt

LUSAKA (AFP) — President Frederick Chiluba announced on state radio Tuesday that a coup attempt against his government had failed and the situation in the country was firmly under control.

Earlier, a man calling himself Captain Solo made an announcement on the same radio station that Mr. Chiluba's government had been overthrown by the army because it was corrupt.

There was no immediate news of what had happened to Capt. Solo, but an AFP correspondent in the capital reported a strong military presence at the radio studios.

Police Commander for Lusaka province Wynte Kabwiku refused to comment on whether Capt. Solo had been arrested. It was not immediately clear whether he was acting alone or had support in the military.

Capt. Solo had said a National Redemption Council had taken over and he would broadcast the names of the new government at 9:00 a.m. (0700 GMT) — but no such broadcast was made.

Instead, Mr. Chiluba went on air to say: "Fellow countrymen and women, fellow Zambians, good morning. I'm happy to announce to the nation that the plans of the enemy have been thwarted, their plans to overthrow a legitimately elected government have failed. 'We are still firmly in control. 'I want to pay tribute and thank our professional army, men and women, in uniform, who have done their very best to control the situation and to bring sanity and normalcy to our nation.'"



Frederick Chiluba

have failed. "We are still firmly in control. 'I want to pay tribute and thank our professional army, men and women, in uniform, who have done their very best to control the situation and to bring sanity and normalcy to our nation.'"

"My government was legitimately and democratically elected. The programme and the plans that we set out to carry out will continue. 'We shall continue to deliver, continue to expect the support of the nation, because there is no viable alternative to what we are doing. 'We know our army, our police, national service and the general populace are all with this government. 'I want to warn those who want to rise by the sword that they will fall by the sword.'"

The president, who is a fervent Christian, used several biblical quotes in his address: "The Lord God of glory will guide this nation. Jesus our rock will continue to strengthen us. We shall not

have failed. "We are still firmly in control. 'I want to pay tribute and thank our professional army, men and women, in uniform, who have done their very best to control the situation and to bring sanity and normalcy to our nation.'"

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alter, we will continue to direct the affairs of this nation even with greater vigour and confidence. "I appeal to you fellow Zambians, unite, be resolute, thwart the plans of the enemy. 'We can't go back to the dark ages. We must ever move forward.'"

This is apparently the second short-lived coup attempt in Zambia in recent years. In 1990, when former president Kenneth Kaunda was in power, an army lieutenant commanded a studio at state radio to announce he had taken over the government. It was soon discovered that he was acting alone, and was apparently drunk.

Mr. Chiluba, 54, ousted Mr. Kaunda, who had ruled Zambia for 27 years, in elections in 1991. He was reelected for another five years in 1996.

Mr. Chiluba, a diminutive former trade unionist, won election on a platform of greater democracy and economic reform in the impoverished southern African state.

But his democratic credentials were dented by a constitutional amendment last year which prevented Mr. Kaunda from running for the presidency again, and his economic reforms have had mixed success. Observers say his programme of privatisation of state industries has gone relatively well, but ordinary Zambians still face high unemployment rates and widespread poverty.

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## Opposition warns of early election over Aboriginal rights

CANBERRA (AFP) — Australia's opposition Labour Party warned Tuesday it could force an early election over the conservative government's Aboriginal land rights legislation.

"We may have to fight a double dissolution (election) on that legislation," a spokesman reported Labour leader Kim Beazley as telling a party meeting.

"We don't want to fight a double dissolution on it. We believe that the parliament has been elected to run its full term."

The contentious piece of legislation is a response to the High Court's 1996 Wik decision, which ruled that

Aborigines can claim ownership of ancestral land currently signed away under farming or mining leases. In response, the government prepared a bill which would largely — but not totally — extinguish native title on the pastoral leases that cover more than 40 per cent of the nation.

However, the proposed legislation has failed to satisfy either Aboriginal groups or the outraged mining and farming lobby.

If the native title bill is rejected by the Upper House Senate, then resubmitted three months later and rejected again, it will

give the government the constitutional grounds for calling a nearly "double dissolution" election.

Both the government and the opposition have said they are keen to avoid such an election, to be fought along racial lines at a time when race is becoming an increasingly sensitive issue here.

But Mr. Beazley said Tuesday that Labour's distaste for an early election would not sway its opposition to the government's Wik plan.

"There must be fairness and certainty, and you can't have certainty without fairness," he said.

## Indian youth to protest child labour

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Around 100,000 children will boycott fireworks during the Hindu New Year this week as part of a protest against child labour, activists said here Tuesday.

R.S. Chaurasia, the general secretary of the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), said a schools petition against child labour containing between 50-60,000 names would also be handed to the Indian president Wednesday following a protest march.

"We have around 50,000 names on the petition and we expect to have another 10,000 by tomorrow," he said.

"We have visited around 150 schools and about 80 to 90 per cent of the children have pledged not to buy fireworks. This represents a real change in attitudes."

"When we started our campaign two years ago, most children and teachers were against a boycott. They could not see how it affected them."

The New Year festival of Diwali, also called the festival of lights, takes place Thursday. It is traditionally celebrated by massive firework and cracker displays which go on for most of the night.

Industry estimates say more than \$50 million are spent on fireworks during Diwali in the Indian capital alone each year.

SAACS and other activists say many of the fireworks are made by children in illegal factories. UNICEF estimates say there are around 60 million child labourers in India.

Many work at home but a proportion of them are sold by their parents as bonded labourers, to be employed as virtual slaves in hazardous industries.

Mr. Chaurasia added: "We hope that the sales of fireworks will be down tremendously over the next two to four years."

## U.S. envoy suggests international Great Lakes conference

NAIROBI (AFP) — U.S. envoy Bill Richardson Tuesday suggested an international conference on Africa's turbulent Great Lakes region to improve dialogue and communications.

Mr. Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters in Nairobi on the fourth leg of a six-nation African tour that such a conference could involve governments, the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, and "various other parties that deal with some of the various refugee and humanitarian problems in the region."

"We need a more integrated approach to the Great Lakes region in Africa: We need better communication," he said, adding that one of the purposes of his trip was "to get the leaders of Africa to have better communication and relationships with U.N. agencies, with the United States."

Mr. Richardson said he expected an agreement he reached with President Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo Saturday to allow a U.N. team free movement to probe allegations that Rwandan refugees were massacred there would "stick."

The team was previously blocked by Kinshasa authorities, and returned to New York, but Mr. Richardson said he expected its members to redeploy in the Democratic Republic of Congo early next month.

"History demands that we learn exactly what hap-

pened," he said.

"The United Nations are studying the agreement. I expect the agreement to stick. I am cautiously optimistic. We have been through this road before and the deal became unstuck previously, but I believe that President Kabila has now committed himself to fulfil this agreement."

Mr. Richardson also spoke about the probe to Rwandan strongman Paul Kagame in Kigali Monday, said that although the Rwandan vice president and defence minister expressed reservations about the probe, "on the whole, Vice President Kagame said that Rwanda would cooperate in the U.N. investigation of the massacres in Congo and Rwanda."

Mr. Richardson noted that the U.N. team would probe allegations of massacres going back to 1993 (when Tutsis were allegedly killed, prior to the alleged massacre of Hutus during the civil war in the former Zaire which ended last May) "so that there's not a perception that only one side is being looked at."

"I think the international community, for failing to respond, has some responsibility too," he added.

In Nairobi, Mr. Richardson said he and Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi "had a good one-hour discussion — we're old friends."

But he said he had urged the president to ensure that upcoming elections are free and fair.

He lauded pre-election reforms agreed recently

between ruling party and opposition politicians, but said he had told Mr. Moi "of our concern about the violent interference by the security forces at political demonstrations" and about the government's refusal to register "a certain political party."

(The government has refused registration to both the Safina (Noah's ark) Party of conservationist Richard Leakey and others, and the Islamic Party of Kenya).

"These actions, which are clearly contrary to the spirit and letter of the reforms, raise questions about the depth of the commitment of the government," Mr. Richardson said.

"We hope that the president's recent public assertion that political parties will not be harassed as they conduct peaceful, orderly meetings will be respected."

"My government ... expects Kenyans to have the opportunity to choose their political representatives through an open exchange of information, equal access to the media by all political parties, freedom of movement and assembly and a transparent and peaceful electoral process."

"Immediate and full implementation of these reforms is now crucial to the credibility of Kenya's election."

Mr. Richardson arrived in Kenya after visiting the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola and Rwanda. He left Nairobi for Ethiopia and Eritrea, and was due to fly on to Geneva Tuesday evening.

## Man spreads AIDS to hundreds in rural U.S. community

NEW YORK (AFP) — A HIV-positive man may have spread the AIDS-causing virus to hundreds of people by having unprotected sex with some 28 women, health authorities in western New York state said.

Eleven of the women who slept with the unidentified man have already contracted HIV, Chautauque County health authorities said Monday.

In all, the man is believed to have had relations with 28 women without telling them of his condition. The women,

in turn, may have spread the HIV virus to 53 other people, with other 17 people being tested, the officials said.

Many of the people at risk are teenagers and some reports indicate the man may have traded drugs in exchange for sex, County Health Commissioner Robert Berke said in a statement.

The Washington Post daily Tuesday identified the HIV-carrier as 20-year-old Nushawn Williams, who is currently in jail on drug charges in New York City. He was diagnosed seropositive

in September 1996.

Mr. Williams may be charged with statutory rape for allegedly having sex with a 13-year-old girl, the Daily said quoting the Chautauque County District Attorney.

Local authorities decided to go public with the story, violating New York state confidentiality laws protecting the identity of HIV-positive people, in view of the risk Mr. Williams has posed to the community, 120 kilometres south of Niagara Falls.

## Asian rights group urges crackdown on trafficking in women to stop AIDS

MANILA (AFP) — Governments around the world must crack down on trafficking in women for prostitution to check the rapid spread of the AIDS epidemic, an Asian civil rights group said here Tuesday.

"It is a myth that women are the carriers of the HIV/AIDS virus," the Asian Women's Human Rights Council said in a statement issued during an international AIDS conference here.

"It is women who are most

vulnerable ... by virtue of their low status in society and the historical, social, cultural and economic discrimination and violence women suffer and thus lead to increasing powerlessness and loss of control over their lives and bodies."

To save the women and check the spread of the disease, "there is an urgent need to combat trafficking in women, to expose and dismantle the international network of trafficking syndicates and agents who profit

from trafficking," the group said.

It gave no estimates for the total number of victims, saying only that it was a "modern form of slavery" which often involves "debt-bondage, illegal confinement, forced labour, rape, physical/psychological violence and exposure to HIV/AIDS."

The council said five of its representatives delivered papers at the AIDS conference.

## Pol Pot interview heavily censored in Vietnam

HANOI (AFP) — An interview with Pol Pot in the weekly *Far Eastern Economic Review* was heavily censored in Vietnam, where all references by the former Khmer Rouge leader to Vietnamese expansionism in Cambodia were covered up in copies received here Tuesday.

Using white correction fluid and paper and glue, Vietnamese authorities covered over offending passages covering nearly a full page column in the copies of the magazine sold in international hotels in the capital.

The first censored passage contained a claim by Pol Pot on the role of the Khmer Rouge that "without their unremitting struggle Cambodia would have been swallowed up by Vietnam."

The largest section covered up by the censors was a passage which began with Pol Pot saying "We had no other choice... The Vietnamese wanted to assassinate me because they knew without me they could easily swallow up Cambodia."

Also covered up were Pol Pot's revelations about the disagreement between the Khmer Rouge and the Vietnamese Communist Party in 1970 and his refusal to take command of a combined Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian army to oust the U.S.-backed regime in Phnom Penh and Saigon.

In the censored passage Pol Pot also explains how by capturing Phnom Penh two weeks before the fall of Saigon in April 1975, he "saved Cambodia from a Vietnamese Communist invasion."

At the end of the censored text, Pol Pot holds "Vietnamese agents" partly responsible for the famine in Cambodia after the Khmer Rouge took power in Phnom Penh in 1975.

The Vietnamese government has already reacted strongly to the interview which first appeared last week, rejecting the "allegations defaming Vietnam" by Pol Pot.

"The entire world knows that the genocidal crime was extremely ferocious and was condemned with indignation by the Cambodian people and the world at large," it said.

The Khmer Rouge was ousted from Phnom Penh in January 1979 and forced to retreat to the jungle by the Vietnamese army, which installed a pro-Hanoi regime and kept troops stationed in the country for a decade.

## Cocaine users' weight loss sheds light on hunger

LOS ANGELES (R) — Cocaine use has long been associated with weight loss, and doctors said Monday they were beginning to understand why: the drug activates a gene that appears to play a role in suppressing appetite.

While these findings offer new details about how cocaine affects the body, researchers said their real significance lay in revealing another piece of the complex mechanism by which the brain regulates appetite and body weight.

Weight loss, once considered a matter of diet and exercise, is increasingly being understood as a chemical process that is controlled by brain signals that create feelings of hunger or fullness.

Doctors who conducted the cocaine research at the Yerkes Primate Centre at Emory University in

Atlanta said they hoped this gene could one day be used in treatments for obesity and anorexia.

All people have the gene, but researchers believe the use of cocaine makes it more active. The gene functions by triggering the production of a peptide known as cart, for "cocaine and amphetamine regulated transcript." In tests on animals, this compound produced appetite loss.

"When we injected the cart peptide into the brains of rats, their food intake was significantly inhibited — by as much as 30 per cent," Dr. Phil Lambert, assistant professor of psychiatry at Emory University, said.

"This ... makes us think cart is responsible in part for making you feel satiated — whether it's after eating or after cocaine use," Dr. Lambert stressed the

research was in its very early stages and more tests would have to be done on animals before doctors began studying the peptide in humans.

In addition, he said the cart peptide was just one of many chemicals that regulated hunger. In the past, researchers have had trouble developing diet drugs because when they inactivate one chemical, they find that other parts of the brain learn to compensate.

Nonetheless, Dr. Lambert said the study of cocaine users had revealed a gene researchers had not known of before. He said he was eager to pursue further research to see whether the gene could be regulated without cocaine.

The findings were presented Monday at the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting in New Orleans.

## China blocks shipments of garbage entering its waters

BEIJING (AFP) — China blocked the entry last year of 200 ships loaded with trash from foreign countries, the official Xinhua news agency said Tuesday.

An unidentified state environmental protection official said China had stepped up

checks on the importation of foreign garbage.

Beijing has accused Washington of treating it as a garbage dump after several shipments of trash from the United States were found smuggled into China.

A U.S. businessman was

recently deported after being found guilty of importing rubbish to Shanghai.

The country began cracking down on the smuggling of trash shortly after 640 tonnes of imported solid waste were found dumped on a site outside Beijing in 1996.

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Pol Pot  
interview  
heavily  
censored  
in Vietnam

HANOI (AFP) — An interview with Pol Pot, the former leader of the Khmer Rouge, was heavily censored in Vietnam, a source said. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the interview, which took place in a prison, was heavily edited to remove any mention of the Khmer Rouge's role in the deaths of millions of people. The source also said that the interview was conducted by a Vietnamese television station, but that the footage was not shown to the public.

Pol Pot, the former leader of the Khmer Rouge, was interviewed in a prison in Vietnam. The interview was heavily censored, with any mention of the Khmer Rouge's role in the deaths of millions of people removed. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the interview was conducted by a Vietnamese television station, but that the footage was not shown to the public.

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## Burma government blocks roads, stops opposition meeting

RANGOON (R) — Burma's military authorities Tuesday set up barricades and blocked opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from holding a political gathering in a small town outside the capital, an opposition source and witnesses said.

The gathering at Mayangon township, about 11 kilometres from Rangoon, would have been the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate's second political meeting outside the city since she was released from house arrest more than two years ago.

Parts of the main Kaba Aye Pagoda road, including the lane leading to the township office of the National League for Democracy (NLD), were still blocked with barricades by early afternoon, witnesses said.

"They had a plan to hold a ceremony at a township NLD office there at 9:00 (0230 GMT) this morning," a source from Ms. Suu Kyi's NLD Party told Reuters.

"The purpose of the ceremony was to reorganise the township NLD Youth Wing and Aung San Suu Kyi was supposed to attend it. However, access to the venue was barred by barricades by security personnel," he said.

A statement issued by the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) said it had warned Ms. Suu Kyi not to hold the political meeting because it threatened the peace and stability of the town.

The statement said Ms. Suu Kyi was requested several times, Monday and Tuesday, not to hold the meeting.

It said it regretted the decision by Ms. Suu Kyi

and other top NLD officials to try to continue with the gathering.

"It is very... regretful that in spite of the efforts the authorities have made in meeting its own commitments the NLD seems to have refused to meet theirs while it has chosen to hold to its rigid and confrontational approach with the authorities," said the statement, released in English.

It said Ms. Suu Kyi's moves not only created conditions that would embarrass the government but they were made with the intent of bringing more international pressure on the SLORC.

Burma has been widely criticised for failing to recognise the NLD's sweeping 1990 electoral victory.

The statement said Ms. Suu Kyi could hold meetings with NLD members

## Jiang tours Williamsburg, en route to Clinton summit

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia (AFP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin was expected to take in the sights of colonial Williamsburg Tuesday before heading to Washington to meet with President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Jiang, 71, accompanied by his wife Wang Yeping and some 80 officials, arrived here from Honolulu late Monday.

They were greeted by a crowd of some 100 people to the tune of an 18th-century military march by the Williamsburg Fire and Drum Corps.

He is expected to tour the sights of this colonial city leaving in the afternoon for Washington.

The Chinese leader is scheduled to meet officially with Mr. Clinton Wednesday, but U.S. officials quoted in the Washington Post Daily said the two leaders would meet informally at the White House late Tuesday.

The meeting would allow Mr. Clinton to get acquainted with the Chinese leader ahead of their summit, the Daily said.

Mr. Jiang earlier Monday left Hawaii where he began his eight-day tour of the United States the day before. While he was airborne, China's ambassador

to the United Nations in New York signed an international human rights covenant in a timely effort to mollify critics of China's human rights record.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights obliges signatories to protect citizens from discrimination.

Significantly Beijing has still not committed itself to a similar U.N. covenant on freedom of speech, religion, and assembly.

In Hawaii Mr. Jiang had his first brush with protesters who have vowed to dog his U.S. visit, the first by a Chinese president since China's People's Liberation Army crushed democracy student demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June 1989 with a heavy loss of life.

About 200 demonstrators demanded human rights and freedom for Tibet outside a formal dinner Sunday and some 50 pro-Taiwanese protesters were camped outside Mr. Jiang's hotel.

Taiwan, which China considers a breakaway province, is a sensitive issue with Washington. The United States maintains ties with Taipei but espouses

## Yeltsin says changes in Russia irreversible

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin hailed Russia's democratic changes and declared them irreversible in a rare newspaper interview published Tuesday.

"We have gone a very long way from the times we remember today. And I believe they have gone forever," the daily Sevodnya quoted him as saying one week before the 80th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

Mr. Yeltsin, 66, was recalling events 10 years ago when he put his career on the line at a secret Communist Party meeting by denouncing a personality cult growing up around then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Yeltsin was removed from the upper ranks of the party and he embarked on the path of resistance that resulted in him becoming the leader of Russia's Emerging Democratic Movement.

The fall from grace of the "October plenum" was short-lived.

Mr. Yeltsin eventually quit the party but grew in the eyes of ordinary Russians. He was elected Russia's president in 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed late that year and democratic changes since then have transformed the face of the country.

"In the last few years Russia has changed. The government's course is determined by the people themselves. They do this through presidential elections, giving their preference to one candidate or another," he said.

"So the 'Yeltsin phenomenon' is already part of history," Mr. Yeltsin did not directly refer to next week's anniversary of the Revolution which brought the communists to power in 1917 and later gave birth to the Soviet Union.

But he made clear there was no going back to the

## Shy French twins pair up to steal cooking accolade

PARIS (R) — Twin brothers wowed judges with their "four-handed" cooking flair to be awarded the Chef of the Year title by France's prestigious Gault-Millau restaurant guide Tuesday.

Laurent and Jacques Pourcel's Jardin des Sens (Garden of the Senses) restaurant in the southern city of Montpellier specialises in Mediterranean-cooking, served in what used to be a bourgeois family home.

The guide praised the brothers' "four-handed cooking", saying they were a perfect match.

"One is a virtuoso of entrées, fowl and meat while the other is skilled with fish and desserts," it said.

Calling them shy but tireless, the guide said the twins had the work-rate of four chefs and the imagination of eight.

Gault-Millau awarded its top rating — symbolised by four traditional white chef's caps or "toques" — to 13 restaurants compared with 12 a year ago.

## Indonesia fires 'to rage for up to 3 more months'

JAKARTA (AFP) — Forest and bush fires will continue to rage around Indonesia for up to three more months, a senior official said as reported Tuesday.

"I think fire-fighting activities will stop in two or three months' time as U.N. climate experts have predicted rains will fall in two or three months," Azwar Anas, the head of the National Disaster Control Board said as quoted

by the Antara news agency.

International assistance has been pouring in to help Indonesia quell the fires that, according to some non-governmental estimates, have affected or destroyed 1.7 million hectares of land.

Mr. Anas, who is also coordinating minister for people's welfare, presided over a ceremony Monday to receive \$67,000 worth of fire-fighting equipment from France,

## Former Australian football star escapes shark attack

PERTH, Australia (AFP) — A former top Australian Rules footballer and a doctor friend made a lucky escape Tuesday when a shark snapped their skiboard in half off a Perth beach.

Brian Sierakowski, 51, a Perth lawyer, said he and friend Barry Hanrahan, were paddling the skiboard about 250 metres offshore at popular Cottesloe beach when the shark attacked.

"The first thing I knew was when it hit me like a car from the side. It was a huge shark," said Mr. Sierakowski, a former star Australian Rules footballer in Melbourne and Perth. The shark was estimated at five metres long.

"We were paddling out there on a double ski when the shark, which we believe to be a white pointer, just bit the ski in half."

"He just missed my feet and, as I attempted to maintain balance, he just chewed at the ski before his tail hit me across the head."

The pair were rescued by fellow surf skiers only seconds before the shark attacked the skiboard a second time.

Mr. Sierakowski said a certain tragedy had been prevented by the bravery of rescuers Malcolm McCusker, a leading Western

beach Inspector Stephen Hopkins his initial reaction was to laugh.

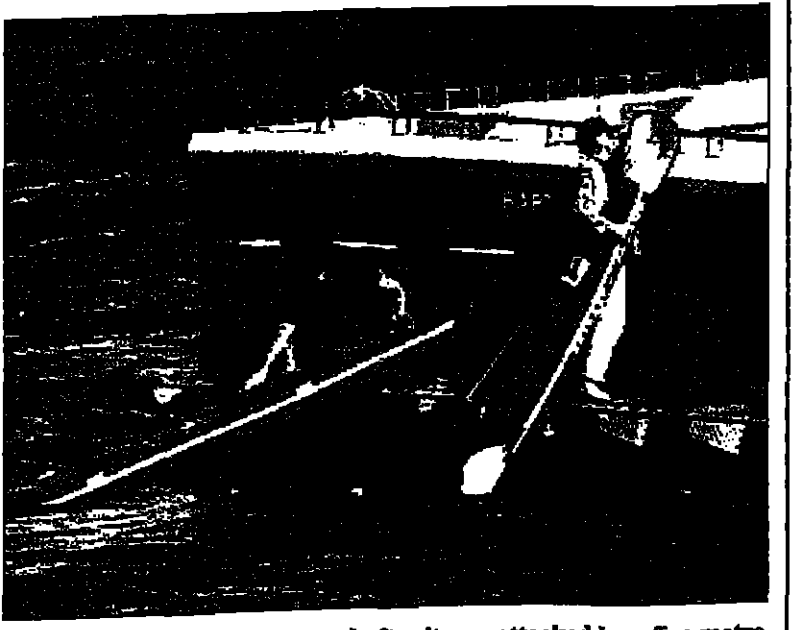
"They saw the ski up-end and were just about to burst out laughing when the water started churning and a huge fin appeared," Mr. Hopkins said.

"It took a cool head and a lot of guts to get those two out alive," he said. "They were goners. They were lucky the shark was happy just to keep ripping into the ski." He said the wrecked skiboard was a substantial 6.6 metres long.

"It is unusual for a shark to attack something that size," he said.

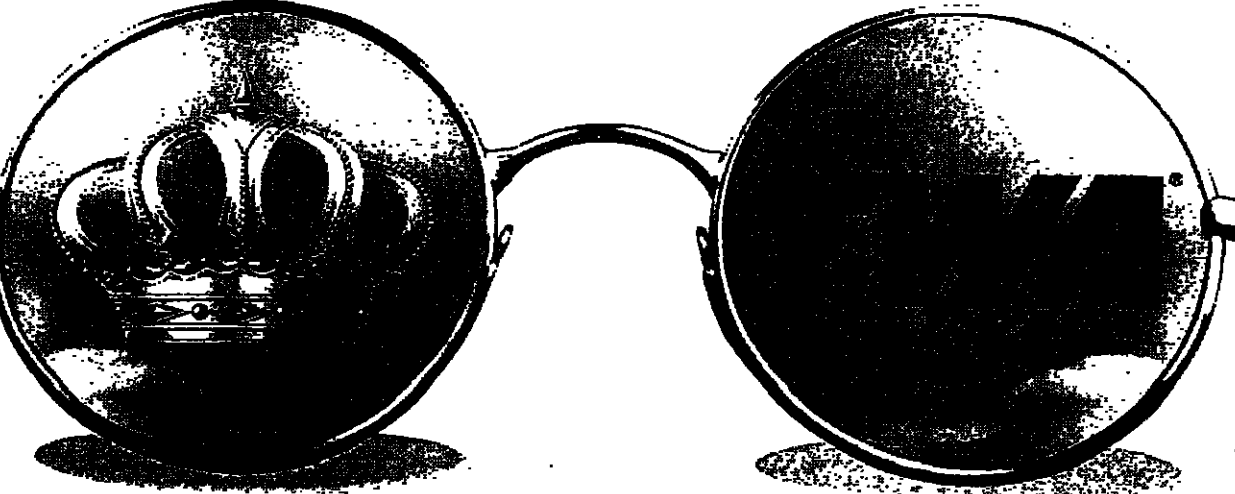
Police said the shark, which they described as "still aggressive," was sighted twice again.

They cleared the water and begun a hunt for the potential killer.



A damaged surf-ski is collected after it was attacked by a five metre white pointer shark at Cottesloe Beach near Perth (Reuter photo)

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## Aiming for lasting peace

THE SECOND visit that Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov made to Syria on Monday suggests that Syrian-Israeli peace track is possible. If Mr. Primakov's efforts succeed in bringing the two countries back to the negotiating table that would be a big boost for the image of the Russian Federation as an active player in the Middle Eastern peace process. Israel, the Russians seem to suggest, could be more forthcoming on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts than on the Palestinian track where the Israeli hard-line government is not willing to compromise.

Since Israel knows too well that its northern border with Lebanon will not see peace without a deal with Damascus, Tel Aviv might be willing to renege the Syrians especially since more and more Israelis of different political persuasions are pressing for a withdrawal from southern Lebanon. An orderly Israeli withdrawal obviously cannot be attained without an accord with Syria. But such a deal should also mean that sooner or later Israel must also withdraw from the Golan Heights. Israeli leaders cannot escape from the fact that the ultimate price for peace with Syria entails the complete withdrawal from the occupied Syrian areas.

A deal between Israel on the one side and Syria and Lebanon on the other would leave the Palestinians in a most vulnerable position. It is therefore more than probable that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is deliberately seeking a solution with the Syrians in order to blackmail the Palestinian National Authority into an early submission to his dictates. That notion did not escape the mind of Mr. Primakov who during his meeting with President Yasser Arafat this week insisted that the peace process should result in the Palestinians establishing their own state. We trust therefore that our American and Russian friends would act wisely and put pressure on the Israeli government to convince it that without peace on all the fronts there can be no lasting peace between Arabs and Israelis.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**Al Dustour** Arabic daily blasted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for observing the third anniversary of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty by announcing his intention to discuss with his ministers whether or not to prevent work on the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, thus acting as if this is a domestic Israeli affair and one that does not affect a billion Muslims. Netanyahu made the announcement following extremist Israeli groups' open declaration to prevent any maintenance of the shrine as conducted by the Awqaf department, said the paper. The statements constitute an infringement on Arab and Muslim rights to restore the holy shrines which have been subjected to repeated Israeli digs and assaults, the paper added. It said that under the peace treaty Jordan maintains the right of guardianship of the Muslim holy places in Jerusalem. According to Al Dustour, the Israeli statements top the list of the Jewish state's provocations and flagrant violations of the peace treaty and come on the heels of a Mossad attempt on the life of a Hamas official in Amman. If anything, it said, these statements reflect Israel's disregard for any peace accord with any Arab party and drives one more nail in the coffin of the peace process.

**Al Ra'i's** Tareq Masarweh believes that no one in the Middle East considers Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov's tour in the region a serious attempt to revive Moscow's mission as a co-sponsor of the peace process. Russia which has forfeited its role as peace maker has been continually giving way to the Americans allowing Washington to deal with the mission single handedly, Masarweh said. The writer said Israel accepted that Russia serve as a partner in the peace process alongside the U.S. because it was clear that Moscow would support all U.S. moves in the region, but rejected a European political role while it accepted European financing of the process. The Russians, like the Arabs, are seeking to please the Americans, and for that purpose they dismantled the eastern bloc, accepted American aid and abandoned their friends in the Security Council, said Masarweh. While welcoming Primakov, the Arabs hope that his mission will be crowned with success, the writer said.

## Washington Watch

By Dr. James J. Zogby

## Arab Americans in the U.S. 1997 elections

ALTHOUGH 1997 is considered an off year for electoral politics, Arab Americans are deeply engaged in key campaigns across the U.S.

In the two key gubernatorial races to be decided this year, Arab Americans are organising campaign activity and in 12 other states Arab Americans are running for several posts with strong community support.

Heading the list of seats to be filled in 1997 are the governorships of Virginia and New Jersey. In both states Arab Americans are well organised and participating in both the Democratic and Republican campaigns.

In Virginia the Arab American Democrats and Arab American Republicans will host their 10th annual candidates' night to which both parties' candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General have been invited as have the candidates for the State House of Delegates. More than 27 candidates for office have so far confirmed their attendance at the event, which has become recognised as one of the staple political events in the state.

The New Jersey community effort is newer but still significant. After her controversial visit to Israel earlier this year, New Jersey's Republican Governor Christine Whitman began an outreach effort to the Arab American community. This culminated in the creation of an Arab American Advisory Commission to the Republican Party. On the Democratic side, Arab American Democrats play a leading role in the state's Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee.

Heading the list of Arab Americans running for office across the U.S. are five candidates for mayor.

Joseph Ganim, listed recently as one of the U.S. top 25 mayors, is seeking a fourth term in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Joan Saliba of Hattwell, Georgia and Ruth Joseph of Waterville Maine are also running for reelection as mayor of their communities.

State Senator Dan Issa is running for mayor of Central Falls, Rhode Island with strong support from the state's leadership. In Houston, Texas, six-year city council member, Helen Bishara Huey is running for mayor in the city's non-partisan election.

Other key Arab American candidates include: Jeanine Ferris Pirro running for reelection as District Attorney in Westchester County, New York. Pirro, who gained national recognition last year, has recently been discussed as a possible Lieutenant Governor candidate in New York in 1998.

Anthony Shaheen is seeking reelection to New York's Supreme Court.

Ben Baroddy a State Representative is running for Alderman in his hometown of Manchester, New Hampshire. Baroddy also

serves as the chair of the Manchester Democratic Party and is looking into a run as Manchester's mayor in 1999. As New Hampshire is the first state to conduct the U.S. presidential primary elections, the mayor of New Hampshire's capital city can play an important role in national politics in the year 2000.

• Ray Hanania, a journalist and long-time Arab American activist, is running for Chicago's School Board.

• Dr. Charles Ara is running for School Board in Los Angeles.

The centre of Arab American political activity in the 1997 off-year elections will be in Dearborn, Michigan where this year a record number of Arab American candidates will compete for city-wide posts.

There are five Arab Americans among the 14 candidates for the seven city council posts and there are two Arab Americans running among the four candidates for the two school board positions.

Suzanne Sareini is an incumbent city council member running for reelection. Joining her are Robert Abraham, Abdul Mackie (who was elected chair of Dearborn's Republican club), Dr. Hussein Abdel-Haq, and George Durany.

The two Arab American candidates for Dearborn's Board of Education are Kalid Kalid, the city's first Yemeni American to run for office and Dr. Abdul Saadi.

What is important here is that these seven candidates were all winners in the September Dearborn primary election beating out dozens of other candidates for the city positions. By their victory in the primary election and their position on the November ballot, they have clearly established the importance of the Arab Americans vote in this southeast Michigan city.

The fact was brought home just a few weeks ago at the annual banquet of the Arab American Chamber of Commerce in Michigan. Michigan's governor and the State's two senators attended and all spoke at length of the importance of the Arab American community and recognised its growing political and economic power in Michigan and the nation.

Given all of this, however, the situation for Arab Americans is not without difficulty. In part due to growing Arab American political involvement, some politicians both seek community support while reacting in negative ways to what they perceive as a threat from this emerging voting block.

In Cleveland, the increasingly organised Arab American business community has come to play a strong role in city elections. Upset at the mayor's level of concern for their needs and some past activities taken by the mayor which they perceived as hostile, the Arab Americans organised strong support for several city council candidates and for a candidate opposing the

mayor's reelection bid.

Recently aides to the mayor have been sending out feelers to the Arab Americans promising greater responsiveness in exchange for an Arab American endorsement for his reelection.

Much the same has happened in Dearborn. There the issue was a campaign for term-limits — an effort to pass a city-wide referendum limiting elected officials to only two terms in office. While the referendum was placed on the ballot with strong support from all segments of the city, the initiative has been identified with some Arab Americans who are most active on its behalf.

The campaign for term-limits is a national phenomenon and has passed in some 27 states. Arab Americans in Dearborn have legitimate grievances. Although they comprise over 20 per cent of the city's population and over 40 per cent of the city's school enrolment, Arab Americans only hold a few per cent of the city's police and staff positions and feel that they do not receive an adequate share of the city's budget and services.

While the situation can change if this year more Arab Americans are elected to city council and the school board, those members of the community supporting term-limits have their eyes set on a different way of displaying their concern.

The mayor and some of his allies, while needing Arab American voter support (in fact the mayor is being challenged by an Arab American who is given little chance of winning in November), want to defeat the term-limit initiative. They have circulated some highly inflammatory literature and made some statements that have inflamed not only Arab Americans but resulted in their being denounced in newspaper articles for defamatory attacks on Arab Americans.

At the same time that they are attacking the initiative and its sponsors, however, the city officials have reached out to other leaders in the community offering campaign promises to support greater access and empowerment for the city's growing Arab American community.

Regardless of the outcome of this battle, the continued growth of the Arab American community and its increasing political power remains an important fact that can be observed in the 1997 elections setting the stage for even greater possibilities in 1998.

Next year already a record number of Arab Americans will be running for national office. In addition to the six incumbent Arab American congressmen, three Arab American challengers with strong chances for success have announced their candidacies for Congress and at least one Arab American has announced for a U.S. Senate seat and one for a gubernatorial race.

## High time for human rights in the Mideast peace equation

By Sten Andersson  
and Thomas Hammarberg

STOCKHOLM — Benjamin Netanyahu's meeting with Yasser Arafat earlier this month was a welcome gesture, but was it anything more?

That same week Prime Minister Netanyahu "clarified" that the settlements on occupied territory would continue expanding. As long as this position remains, it is unlikely that talks could progress beyond meetings to discuss meetings.

The Israeli government conditions peace talks on security for its population. That seems logical, but concrete actions have almost derailed the Oslo process — and have fostered more insecurity.

Mr. Netanyahu has given the potential terrorist a huge carrot. He has made clear that if a bomb explodes again there will be no talks and further hardship for people in the occupied territories — precisely what the extremists aim for.

The Palestinians have obtained no hearing for their quest for "peace with justice." That certainly is a mistake, if peace is indeed wanted. There can be no lasting conciliation as long as the weaker side is humiliated and collectively punished by the side with power. Peace and human rights are interrelated.

Both of us have a long history of friendship in Israeli society. We

have been all more sad to learn of the gradual undermining in Israel of basic human rights principles.

The policy of extrajudicial executions abroad is of course unacceptable even if seen as a means against terrorism. There are other examples.

The ruling by the High Court of Justice late last year to allow brutal interrogation methods, otherwise called torture, was a most disappointing signal. What was required instead was a clear decision to stop the widespread practice of such "moderate physical pressure" as violent shaking and suspending shackled prisoners in painful positions.

The number of Palestinians in "administrative detention" without trial has gone up again and is now 420. They are in addition to 3,500 sentenced and 500 others under arrest.

The occupation policy not only violates international law, it has serious human rights implications. Land confiscation and what now appears as systematic ethnic cleansing in East Jerusalem deprive ordinary Palestinians of their right of residence and livelihood.

House demolitions and repeated closures of Gaza and other Palestinian areas are nothing but collective punishments of innocents.

Brutal riot control methods, with shooting of rubber bullets and live

ammunition, continue. Of the 58 people killed during the violent unrest in September last year, 15 were children.

The settlement policy threatens any possibility of peaceful solution of the underlying problems, including the issue of Palestinian refugees. Already there are 5,000 settlers in Gaza, 150,000 in the West Bank and 160,000 in the West Bank and 160,000 to 200,000 in East Jerusalem.

At the same time, the movements of Palestinians are restricted. In the West Bank they live in bantustan-like areas surrounded by Israeli checkpoints.

Palestinian human rights groups have protested against all these injustices. However, they have had reason also to turn against their own administration. They have seen unacceptable abuses committed by the Palestinian police. Horrific torture has been used during interrogation. It is reliably reported that 15 prisoners have died in custody during the last three years.

Pressure on the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to crack down on terrorists has not contributed to human rights atmosphere. Little distinction has been made between proven culprits and people with just general fundamentalist and anti-Israeli views.

Security courts have been established and summary procedures

introduced that fall short of minimum standards for a fair trial. These methods create further bitterness and of course do not rid the area of terrorism.

Clearly, the PNA is responsible for this policy. But those who recommended the "tough actions" should also account for their part of this debacle. We hope that the time has come for a rethinking of the one-dimensional approach to security.

The basic idea behind the 1993 Declaration of Principles was to build confidence step by step between the two peoples. This is still sound thinking, but it cannot happen without respect for human rights.

The point is not new. In the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza signed in Washington two years ago, the two sides agreed to show "due regard to internationally accepted norms and principles of human rights and the rule of law."

Mr. Andersson, a former foreign minister of Sweden, now chairs the Olaf Palme International Centre. Thomas Hammarberg, a former secretary general of Amnesty International, advises the Swedish government on humanitarian issues. They contributed this personal comment to the International Herald Tribune.

IT  
OCCURRED  
TO ME...

## The Jordanian way

By Ali Kassab

ONE OF the most pleasurable aspects of living in Jordan is that there is always a surprise around the corner. One could almost say that there is never a dull moment. With great inventiveness, life in Jordan seems always to present you with situations that defy logic and soar beyond the wildest flights of the imagination. Behaviour that baffles the sane is accepted by all and sundry as normal. It is just the Jordanian way.

Take, for instance, this column. When I started to write it I wondered if I would be able to find new topics to parody every week for any length of time. I soon discovered that the task would be much simpler than I had first imagined. In fact there was no need for the exaggeration that is essential for farce. All one needs to do is to take the reality of life in Jordan, tone it down a bit so as not to tax the reader's capacity for suspension of disbelief, and describe that. Moreover, there is never a shortage of subject matter. Every time I describe a situation that seems absurd enough, a friend of mine tops it with a similar experience that is even more preposterous.

This happened a few weeks ago when I described my experience with Royal Jordanian, the last time I flew to Europe. The following day a friend of mine came to me with an even more amazing story. It seems that around the same time he happened to be at the airport to see off an older friend who was travelling first class.

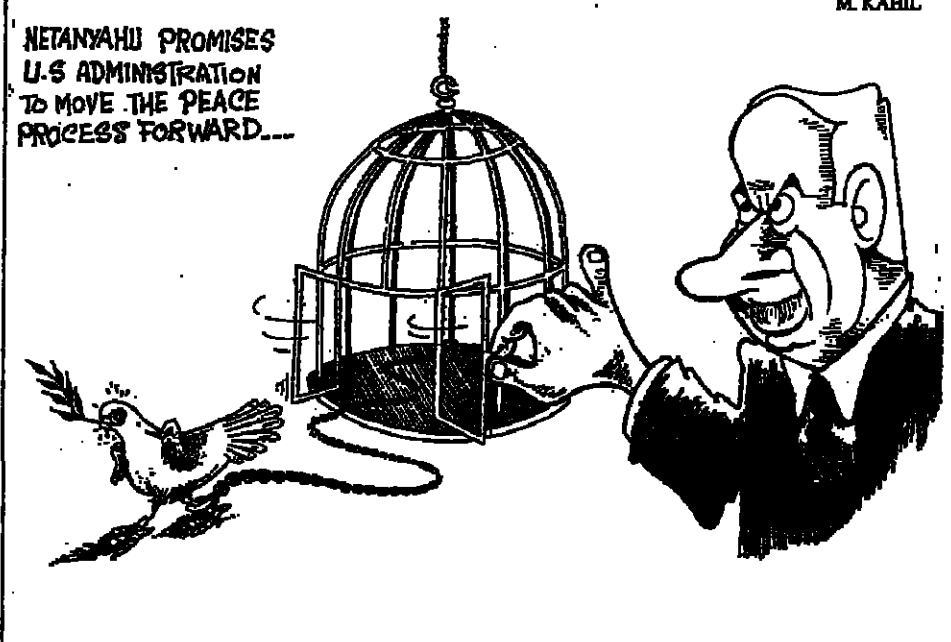
The traveller was duly escorted to the appropriate lounge where he was checked in, relieved of his baggage which would be loaded on board by the responsible personnel, then he was requested to proceed to the first class departure lounge. This he did, but the baggage remained exactly where he had left it.

About an hour later, his escort who stayed on in the certainty that something would go wrong, began to worry, but his increasingly persistent and frantic inquiries about the fate of the luggage received one response from officials: "It is our responsibility, and we shall take care of it in good time."

Finally, with hardly any time for take-off, he went directly to the porter and asked when the bags would be taken on board. The porters said that he had a backache and he could not carry them without a cart, which costs half a dinar to rent, which he could not afford to pay from his meagre salary. What with a wife and several children to feed...etc.

Well, of course he was given half a dinar plus a tip to help him bear the combined burdens of the rising cost of living and the luggage, whereupon his aching back showed a remarkable recovery that would have drawn a smile of pride from the best of surgeons. So, not only was the baggage taken away, it was even loaded on the correct aeroplane, and everybody lived happily ever after.

But all of this could not have been achieved without some unnecessary delay, and an incremental rise in the blood pressure of someone, in this case the escort. It is just the Jordanian way.



## LETTERS

### Looking for an absentee ballot

To the Editor:

I AM a Ph.D. candidate at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and have a question about the right of Jordanians residing overseas to vote in all elections in Jordan. As a Jordanian living overseas, I often feel homesick for my beloved country. But through the Internet I and others can feel a sense of home. What is missing is our role in activities taking place in Jordan.

The questions I address to the decision makers are: Why is it that Jordanians living abroad have no right to vote? Why has this issue not been considered? Several other countries make provisions for their citizens abroad to participate in their elections through their embassies. I hope that by the next elections in 2001, we, the Jordanians residing abroad, will be able to exercise our right to vote in the Kingdom's polls.

Abdelaziz Lafi Al Khlaifat  
Chicago, Illinois  
USA.



# Music as a school subject needs more attention

By Richard Tanner

MUSIC IS of course a minor subject in nearly all schools. More important subjects like maths and science, languages and humanities grab the lion's share of the time, leaving music with no more than 5 per cent. Yet music is surely as essential to living as any of the other subjects. Brought up in a musical family, I cannot imagine life without playing or singing or listening to music — I was never taught to compose.

Time apart, there are some tough decisions to be made about school music. Is it to be Arabic or Western, or Indian or North African with which Arabia was closely linked? Not all these, time's short enough already. Even if it wasn't, there wouldn't be the expertise to do them all justice. Even supposing there were, how should the teacher choose between singing and playing, listening and composing? Making music with whole classes of youngsters depends on large group activities: choral singing, band practice and so on. Basic skills taught collectively ensure that progress is slow and that most young performers soon give up. Even if schools could afford keyboards and guitars, violins and trumpets — cheaper than computers I suspect — it's hard to imagine even half-classes learning together. I recall a Canadian teaching a "big band" to play one lesson a day for a year; remarkable though the end-of-year concert was, his class had no singing, little active listening and no composition

practice.

High quality performance requires individual or small group tuition, usually supported by families outside the classroom. The costs of instruments and scores, of regular coaching, puts it beyond the reach of most families, even if the daily practice doesn't send them mad. And if, after four or five years' training, the child becomes really competent, she/he will want to join a small group or travel for more expensive lessons, difficult in Amman and well-nigh impossible elsewhere.

Sadly, we've no real tradition of Western classical music. Arab music seems stuck in Mamluk times, mere folk music; yet to adopt Western music would not only involve economic costs of importing instruments and scores, players and composers, recordings and teachers, it would have cultural costs as well. Even if Amman could be transformed into a Salzburg or a Prague, that would hardly be acceptable to most Jordanians.

Perhaps, then, Jordan should adopt an elitist approach. As the cathedral closes of England echo with church music learnt in choir schools which feed choral scholars into public schools and Oxbridge, so might specialist music centres serve the needs of talented youngsters here. Providing foci of musical education, they would need to disseminate their musicality to benefit Jordan. Hearing good music is no longer difficult — tapes and CDs plus FM radio from across the Jordan are readily

available — it's the making of it that's tricky. The Russian Court 250 years ago imported musicians from the West to produce Tchaikovsky and reinvent ballet. Is Jordan in need of such a fairy godmother?

For surely music in schools is a Cinderella. Unimportant as a subject, it's culturally dangerous to address the issues. Who dare consign Arab music to the sidelines and promote Western music in its place? Who will choose between elitism and general mediocrity? Can the balance be struck between vocal and instrumental music, between performing and listening, reading and composition? What is the place of solo, small group and full symphony music, of opera and ballet? Who chooses Bach over Purcell, Beethoven over Mozart, Stravinsky over Brahms or Britten over Gershwin?

Assuming a new programme can be agreed, who will teach it? Musicians aren't too keen — all those solitary hours of practice make them too introspective perhaps — and non-musicians don't really know how. It's a rare principal who's a musician, so through ignorance or apathy, pressed by the million other jobs, most opt for the easy way out. Given the difficulties, who can blame them?

And yet, full enrichment of the individual requires music, more than shouting in unison, clapping and beating the tabla. More too than the decadent Western cacophony I hear around me as I write, blaring from the stereo in the flat opposite and the cars passing



Young students of the National Music Conservatory perform in a violin recital (file photo)

by. These tell me that people are desperate for music; it's part of living. But quality living requires quality music; society should help schools feed their students a richer fare. Love of music should not be restricted to musical families; schools should be offering real musical opportunities to all their pupils. However, I fear that nothing short of a total renaissance will be needed before Cinderella can go to the ball.

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## Campaign cash the ticket to White House 'coffees'?

By James Robinson  
Agence France-Press

WASHINGTON — More than 100 times during the 1996 U.S. presidential campaign, select groups of mostly Democratic Party donors drank coffee, ate pastries and talked with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

But at what price? The intimate gatherings in the historic White House Map Room are the latest focus of the U.S. Senate's probe into improper and illegal campaign fund-raising practices, many of them involving Asians and Asian-Americans in last year's reelection of Mr. Clinton.

U.S. law bars the solicitation of campaign money using government property. That includes telephones, which has got Vice President Al Gore into trouble over fund-raising phone calls he made from his office, as well as

places like the White House Map Room itself.

While no money exchanged hands at the coffee events themselves, those invited to them have contributed almost \$27 million to the Democratic Party.

In the face of mounting testimony and documentation connected to the coffees, recently one Democratic senator agreed with what Republicans have been saying all along — that the events were in essence fund raisers.

Senator Joseph Lieberman said the documents "show out at us that money was being raised around these events" if not at the events themselves.

With the Senate probe into fund raising so far having failed to catch the U.S. public's attention, Republicans were visibly ecstatic at Mr. Lieberman's comments.

While the Republicans have so far

failed to prove the assertion they made in July that there was a Chinese plan to influence the 1996 U.S. elections, they are becoming more successful in building a case against members of the Clinton administration on possible violations of U.S. election laws.

**While no money exchanged hands at the coffee events themselves, those invited to them have contributed almost \$27 million to the Democratic Party.**

Recent revelations, including Mr. Gore's involvement in fund raising, have stepped up pressure on Attorney General Janet Reno to appoint an independent counsel to investigate the

fund-raising affair. If she does, the probe is certain to damage the Democratic Party as it goes into the 2000 presidential campaign season as well as Mr. Gore, for now the party's probable nominee.

Last Tuesday, the Senate Investigating Committee released Democratic Party records showing that officials were targeting specific amounts of money in connection with the coffees. For many of the White House cof-

fees, including one held June 18, 1996, the goal was \$400,000.

On that afternoon, an Asian-American business consultant, Pauline Kanchanalak, escorted officials with the Thai CP Group conglomerate into the White House. On that same day Kanchanalak contributed \$50,000 to the Democratic Party, as well as another \$85,000 the following day and \$50,000 more a few days later.

Most Democrats have maintained that the coffees were not fund raisers, noting there was no price for admission to them. And they have mounted what Republicans deride as the "incompetence defence", saying the June 18 coffee could not have been a fund raiser because a Republican was invited.

That Republican — Karl Jackson, who was a top aide to ex-vice President Dan Quayle — has told the Senate

committee that controversial Democratic fund raiser John Huang asked for money at the coffee event.

"Elections cost money — lots and lots of money, and I'm sure every person in this room will want to support the reelection of President Clinton," Jackson recalled Huang saying.

Democrats at the coffee said they did not recall hearing that statement.

Whether or not money was directly solicited at the White House coffees, the privilege of chatting with the president appears to have done the job of generating campaign money.

An analysis by the newspaper USA Today of Federal Election Commission reports showed that of those who attended the coffees, 17 individuals or the organisations they represented contributed more than \$500,000 the same day they attended a coffee.

### Government moves to correct electoral process 'irregularities'

(Continued from page 1)

According to the office of the spokesperson's figures, 70.91 of registered voters (1,340,248) have so far collected their voting cards.

Voters have up until Oct. 30 to collect their cards.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson's office has also announced that the total number of candi-

dates contesting the elections has gone down from the initial 561 to yesterday's 539.

Seven candidacies were rejected because of falling short of the requirements stipulated by the Elections Law, while the other candidates withdrew from the race.

### Differing views of free speech clash at opening session of press seminar

(Continued from page 3)

Mahmoud Sherif, chief editor of Al Dustour; Nidal Mansour, editor-in-chief of the now-suspended Al Hadath weekly; George Hawatme, a founder of the Arab Media Institute and chief editor of the Jordan Times; and Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer at Al Ra'i.

"I regret the difficulties now facing our press," said Mr. Al Kayed. "It progressed mostly in terms of content and technical services.

"We aren't in an ideal situation, but we can say that we still have a lot to do. We weren't daring when we had the chance and we didn't call a spade a spade. Now, if we try, we will face difficulties and pressure."

In his opening remarks on behalf of the Minister of Information Samir Mutawi, newly-appointed Director of the Press and Publica-

tions Department Bilal Tal criticised newspapers for not providing proper training and resources to their employees.

In an apparent reference to daily newspapers, Mr. Tal said, "Media institutions should provide journalists with the required skills that can only be obtained through training and retraining. The law stipulates that newspapers should earmark a percentage of their profits for the training of staff."

He added that many journalists fear for the security of their jobs and that some journalists who did practice their right to free expression did not receive the support that they deserved from their employers.

He also lashed out at newspapers for failing to keep data banks or proper archiving systems that journalists could draw on for their articles and stories.

### Plunges on Wall Street

(Continued from page 1)

markets, the red ink spread wildly as investors reacted to the worst single-day point drop in the history of the Dow Jones Industrial average, a 554-point, 7.2-per cent fall that prompted the New York market to shut down early Monday.

Steep drops in Asia spread to Europe's markets, big and small, from the opening.

German Economics Minister Guenther Rexrodt warned against "panic and overreaction," but Frankfurt's Dax index finished with a loss of eight per cent, after early losses gave it a loss of 10 per cent.

In Paris, the Cac 40 index was off by 7.2 per cent in the early afternoon, partially recovering from an early plunge of nearly 10 per cent — many Paris shares began trading late, after officials delayed dealings amid an overbalance of sell orders.

Analysts said the chain-reaction sell-offs could continue because of investor panic and because the New York market had been viewed as overvalued for a long time and traders had been waiting for an excuse to engage in massive selling.

"We may be still seeing some dramatic falls in the United States to come," said Gilbert K. Chu, executive director of Sun Hung Kai Securities Ltd. in Hong Kong. "And so the whole thing goes around and around again."

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index shed 11.45 per cent of its value in the first two minutes Tuesday, then bottomed out at the midday break, down by 15.44 per cent. The Hang Seng bounced up slightly in the afternoon to close at 9,059.89 points, down 1,438.31 points, or 13.7, per cent for the day.

The fall exceeded last Thursday's 10-per cent crash and was the worst since 1989, when the market lost 22 per cent of its value in reaction to the Chinese army suppression of pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Hong Kong's market has now lost 33 per cent of its value in the past seven trading days and 45.6 per cent from its peak of 16,673.27 on Aug. 7.

In Tokyo, the benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average lost 725.67 points, or 4.26 per cent, to close at 16,312.69 — its lowest level since July 1995.

Hong Kong's economy has yet to feel the impact of the stock meltdown, but a strong impact — in slower growth, fewer home purchases, slower luxury sales, less dining out — is inevitable, experts said.

But Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa said Tuesday's fall was a reaction to New York's drop rather than a referendum on Hong Kong's economy.

"The markets will go up and down," he told reporters after meeting with department heads. "The latest round is because of what happened overseas. But our fundamentals are strong, that is the most important thing."

No one has found any link between the market drop and Hong Kong's July 1 handover

from British to Chinese rule. Investors and analysts alike said the plunge would have happened no matter what flag was flying.

In keeping with their pledges of autonomy for Hong Kong, Chinese finance officials have taken a hands-off stance while expressing confidence in the territory's economy.

The market dominoes started falling in Southeast Asia over the summer when investors dumped regional currencies and stocks, nervous over rising debt and falling exports. The contagion spread to Hong Kong last week, when speculators judged the Hong Kong dollar was overvalued. The government successfully defended the currency by pushing up interest rates, but that harmed corporate earnings prospects and hammered the stock market.

The Hong Kong dollar was stronger early Tuesday, trading in a range of 7.7320 to 7.7330 to the U.S. dollar, as investors were drawn to the high interest returns.

Losses were heavy in smaller European markets, including Milan, Amsterdam, Brussels and Stockholm, although most stock price barometers seemed to bottom out in the morning before showing signs of stability.

On Russia's main stock exchange, prices fell 3.8 per cent after wary officials delayed the opening by several hours. Israeli stock officials temporarily closed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange after it lost eight per cent in the early going.

### Israel examining new methods in confrontation with Hizbollah

(Continued from page 1)

children in northern Israel on Sunday.

"It is receiving money, arms and training from Iran. As for the Syrians, they are doing nothing to change the situation," he added.

Gen. Shabak also reportedly expressed concern during a cabinet meeting Sunday that Israel was gathering little useful intelligence material about Hizbollah's activities.

"We are having great difficulty in finding out about Hizbollah. We know little about what goes on within the organisation," Gen. Shabak said, according to the Yediot Ahronot newspaper.

General Amiram Levine, the commander of Israel's northern region, said Hizbollah had also tried to kidnap an Israeli soldier last week. Maariv said the group planned to use kidnappings as a new tactic.

A total of 39 Israeli soldiers have been killed so far this year in south Lebanon — the highest toll since Israel set up its self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon in 1985.

### Jordan, Russia criticise Netanyahu for stalemate

(Continued from page 1)

said that despite the Kingdom's small size, "it plays a very important role to overcome the difficulties in the peace process."

The minister called for the resumption of the peace talks on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, the official said.

Commenting on his talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad on Monday, Mr. Primakov said that he felt "comfortable" with the Syrian willingness to resume talks with Israel.

"I found belief and conviction in the peace process and that Syria was serious in its endeavour to make peace if the other side [Israel] shows good intentions," Mr. Primakov was quoted as saying.

"Syria is ready to resume the talks. But Syria is not ready to restart negotiations from point zero," the Russian official added.

Syria "believes that all previous agreements should be taken into consideration," Mr. Primakov said.

"Russia, as a peace broker, works to narrow the gap in the stands between the concerned parties. It is a difficult task and requires a lot of time," Mr. Primakov said in a press conference following his talks

with the King, HRH Crown Prince Hassan and Dr. Majali.

Mr. Primakov said that his country, which is co-sponsoring the peace process along with the United States, will not accept a unilateral American role in the region.

"In one word, Russia rejects the attempts by a particular country or a group of states to single-handedly steer the peace process," Mr. Primakov said in an apparent reference to the U.S.

He said that his country wants to coordinate with Jordan and the European Union in efforts to put the peace process back on track.

The Russian minister urged the Iraqi government to refrain from taking moves that might worsen the situation and lead to an escalation in tensions with the United States following the U.N. Security Council resolution against Iraq.

"The Iraqi government should not be confrontational. We hope that Iraq would adopt an easy stand and facilitate the work of U.N. teams that oversee the destruction of Iraq's non-conventional arsenal and cooperate with it," the Jordanian official quoted Mr. Primakov as saying.



## Japan, Jordan finalise plans to double water supply to Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Tuesday signed minutes of meeting with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to proceed with the grant agreement of a project geared towards increasing water supply to Greater Amman, according to a press statement by the Japanese embassy.

Earlier this month, Japan earmarked approximately \$65 million for this project, which aims at improving

the water supply system in Greater Amman and its vicinity.

The project also strives to increase pumping capacity of water from Deir Alla to Amman, as well as expand the Zai Treatment Plant in order to double the existing water supply of 45 million cubic metres per year.

"We have now finished all the preparations needed at the technical level and we will recommend positively for the early conclusion of the agreement to extend

grant aid to this project," JICA team leader, Haruo Iwahori said after signing the minutes of meeting with the ministry's secretary general, Qussai Qutaishat.

In the agreed minutes, it was confirmed that Jordan will secure 90 MCM per year of water at the Deir Alla Intake Pumping Station of the King Abdullah Canal for municipal purposes, according to the statement.

Both sides also agreed that Jordan implements

other related components of the project by the end of 2001, when the whole project is completed, the statement added.

Japan is currently implementing the first phase of the same water project, scheduled to be completed by the end of March 1998.

This project, financed at a cost of \$12 million, aims to rehabilitate the present system and regain the original water supply capacity of 45 MCM per year.

## Hungarian delegation arrives for talks on trade, industrial ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Representatives of seven Hungarian companies arrived in Jordan Tuesday in a bid to strengthen trade relations between the two countries, according to a statement by the Hungarian Embassy.

During the two-day visit, the delegation will hold meetings with representatives of both chambers of commerce and industry and members of the World Trade Centre.

"We consider the relations between Jordan and the Republic of Hungary traditionally very good and progressive. Those relations are supported by mutual high

ranking visits and meetings between the two countries," the statement added.

It added that during His Royal Highness Prince Hassan's visit to Hungary in July this year, both countries set the ground for the strengthening of their bilateral relations, especially economic cooperation.

"We are sure that all this efforts made by the officials and company representatives of the two countries will give an additional result towards the development of the bilateral relations in several fields to the mutual benefit of Jordan and Hungary," the statement said.

## Jordanian delegation to Iraq to discuss joint economic ventures

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian economic delegation left for Baghdad Tuesday to discuss investments and prospects for joint economic ventures in Jordan and Iraq.

Delegation leader Haidar Murad said the delegation includes representatives of the commercial and industrial sectors who will also attend the opening of the Baghdad International Fair.

Mr. Murad who is also chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce said the talks in Baghdad will cover ways for further strengthening cooperation with Iraqi businessmen and means of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.

The talks will also cover prospects for organising trade exhibitions, exchanging visits by businessmen, and opening new markets for Jordanian products in Iraqi markets.

Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha left for Baghdad Tuesday for a several-day visit during which he said he will hold talks with Iraqi government leaders on promoting agricultural cooperation and also to attend

the opening of the Baghdad International Fair which is due on Nov. 1, 1997.

Mr. Khreisha said in a pre-departure statement that his talks with the Iraqi officials will focus on increased cooperation in agricultural fields and trade exchanges in general, stressing the importance of the Iraqi market for Jordan and the need to overcome present obstacles that impede trade between the two sides.

According to Mr. Khreisha, his ministry plans to present 100,000 olive tree saplings to Iraq as a gift in addition to unspecified number of saplings of citrus fruit trees. He said Jordan, in exchange, will benefit from Iraq's experience in the planting of palm trees, noting that Iraq will give Jordan 40,000 saplings of palm trees of very high quality to be planted in Aqaba, Wadi Araba, Azraq and the Jordan Valley region.

Mr. Khreisha, who will formally open the Jordanian wing at the Baghdad fair, is accompanied by a delegation of officials from his ministry in addition to Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry, Khaldoun Abu Hassan and a group of prominent Jordanian businessmen.

## Grindlays opens new HO in Shmeisani

ON TUESDAY 28 October, ANZ Grindlays Bank's new Head Office building incorporating the bank's Shmeisani branch was opened by Mr. Graham Miller, Senior General Manager responsible for ANZ's branch network worldwide. He was accompanied by Mr. David Smith, General Manager, Middle East. The Guest of Honour was Mr. Ahmad Abdel Fattah, Deputy Governor-elect of the Central Bank of Jordan.

The above premises are in a prime location in Shmeisani and are decorated to a very high standard. They have also resulted in a major change in the bank's image and in the ways that the bank serves its customers.

Over the past three years, in addition to the above, ANZ has opened new branches in Sweifiah, Karak, Nablus and East Jerusalem. It has also refurbished its branches in King Hussein Street, Amman and Irbid.

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His Excellency Dr. Munther Al Masri, Minister of Education  
Dr. Izzat Jaradat, Secretary General, Ministry of Education  
Members of the Education Council  
General Directors of the Ministry

For their approval of the SAT II, Foreign programme, 11th and 12th grade starting academic year 1997/98. This programme allows graduates to equate their certificate with the Jordanian General Secondary Education Certificate (Tawjihi), upon completing the necessary requirements, thus enabling them to enrol in Jordanian Universities.

## Gulf states halve budget deficit in four years

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states have halved a deficit in their budgets between 1993 and 1996 as most of them were forced to trim spending because of weak oil prices, the UAE central bank governor said Tuesday.

Sultan Al Suweidi said the budget shortfall in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was slashed from around \$20.7 billion in 1993 to \$10.9 billion last year.

"Its ratio to the combined gross domestic product (GDP) dropped from 10.2 per cent to 4.6 per cent," he told an economic conference here.

GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — have been reeling under fluctuating oil prices and huge payments for a U.S.-led multinational coalition which evicted Iraq from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War.

Their budgets suffered from a record deficit of nearly \$63 billion in 1991 but ensuing cuts in expenditures and an improvement in oil prices last year enabled them to bring the shortfall under control.

The spending cuts were offset by stronger private sector involvement in the domestic economy and this boosted their combined GDP to \$238 billion in 1996 from around \$203 billion in 1992, according to Sultan Suweidi.

The international reserves of the GCC are also recovering, standing at \$24.6 billion at the end of June. This compares with around \$19 billion in 1992.

Suweidi put GCC gold reserves at around 8.58 million ounces (240 tonnes).

## THE Daily Crossword

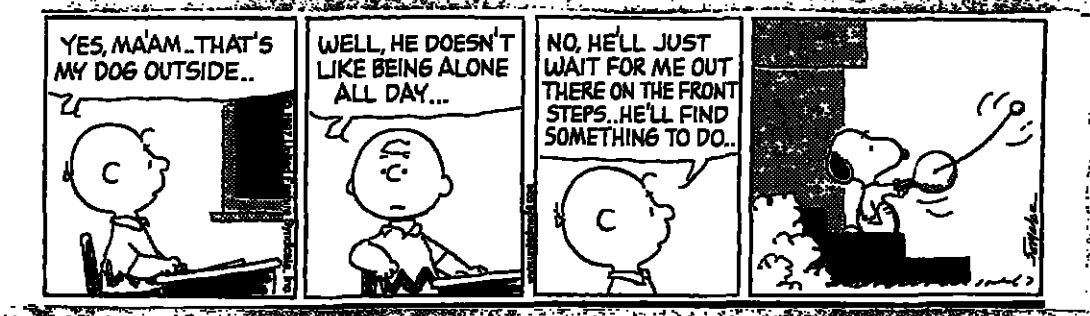
**ACROSS**

- Soda favorite
- History
- Steps over a fence
- Eve's boy
- Pilaf base
- Golfier Palmer
- Corn dish
- Bouquet
- Be particularly attentive
- Pax voliscum
- Actor Dawson
- Cook and bull
- Bernhardt and Ferguson
- Go different ways
- Derek and Didley
- Excuse
- Location
- Hip bones
- Omnia vincit amor
- Lean-to
- Snear
- Beginning
- Swiss river
- Sidle
- Aqueous
- Annex
- Balloon filler
- Semper fidelis
- Catch 40 winks
- Flat hats
- Habitat island
- Bradley and Sharif
- Skip
- Framework of parallel bars
- Do grammar work
- Female swans
- Loathe

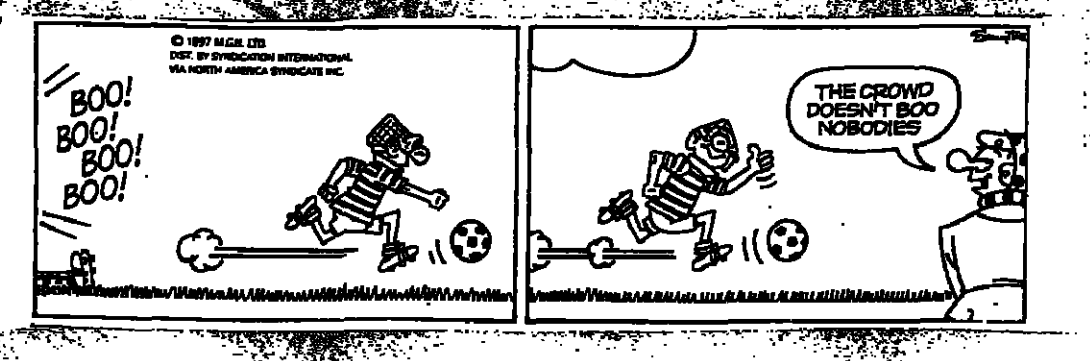
**DOWN**

- Dogpatch
- Double read
- Musical Home
- Author Waugh
- Feet
- Lent a hand
- Barge boat
- Actress Hatcher
- Perfumed packet
- Cafeteria items
- Involved with
- In — of
- Always, to
- System of moral values
- Hat trick
- Hot sauce
- Hilo greeting
- Danube, e.g.
- Sleeping
- Huff
- Three men in
- Disenchanted
- Tanker
- Belt sites
- High
- Common contraction
- In a strange way
- Dinner entree
- Run out
- Water pitchers
- Street urchin
- Diva Gluck
- T.V. producer, Norman
- Traffic sign
- Renown
- (greeting)
- Market places of old Rome
- Army group
- Put on cargo
- Drunch

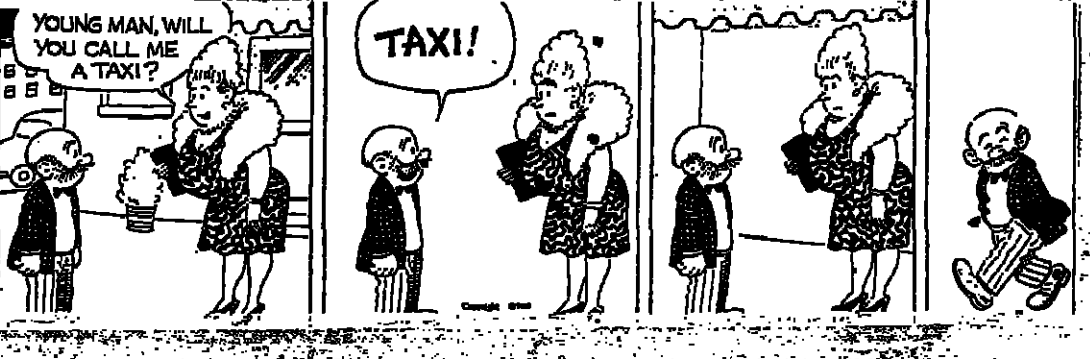
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### ARIES

(March 21 to April 19) You can still feel the pressure building. That's OK; you can handle it. You'll have a real burst of energy this evening. There's nothing more relaxing, to you, than to get totally exhausted. So run a few laps around the track. See if you can break your old record.

### TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20) You must go through a labyrinth to before you can achieve your goals. You may be feeling frustrated because you're not sure of your success. Don't worry about it. Nobody even knows you're having a problem. So don't tell them.

### GEMINI

(May 21 to June 21) Keep the various areas of your life separate for a while. Although your loved ones want to give you encouragement, telling them everything may be counterproductive. Your efficiency level will improve noticeably if you learn this simple lesson. Today, practice.

### MOON CHILDREN

(June 22 to July 21) Use skills you've learned at home, plus the advice of a roommate, to get along with a difficult person. You have a good reason. Don't forget what it was. You are determined to get your way. But, for heaven's sake, relax! Be nice. The other guy won't know what hit him.

### LEO

(July 22 to August 21) You feel you should be the leader. Today, and in the weeks to come, that will not be an easy position to maintain. You can lay some groundwork, though. If you establish yourself as a strong but kindly authority figure, it will be easier to maintain that position later.

### VIRGO

(August 22 to September 22) You still want to save money, of course. You'd do it even if it weren't necessary. You'd like to have the nicest things, especially if you can have them for less. So, get creative. You'll be even better than usual at crafts projects today.

### LIBRA

(September 23 to October 23) It looks like someone needs your advice. This person may be reluctant to ask, however. Make a few phone calls. The one who's in trouble will let you know. You are a natural counselor. Your attention, for just a little while, could make all the difference in the world.

### SCORPIO

(October 23 to November 21) Quite often you get to make all the decisions. You get to have all the responsibility. Today, you don't want it. Don't worry, you're not losing your touch. Wait until tomorrow. You'll have more facts and be able to make a better choice then.

### SAGITTARIUS

(November 22 to December 21) If you get all your friends working on a project together, it won't be much of a burden on anyone. Ask a friend to do the part of the job that you find most difficult. All of a sudden, everything will start to look like fun again. The ore, the merrier!

### CAPRICORN

(December 22 to January 20) You're doing more than three or four ordinary human beings put together. Slow down just a minute. OK? Let a friend mastermind the proceedings. Assume a jittery older person that everything will be fine. It will be, eventually. Take a break, before you wear out.

### AQUARIUS

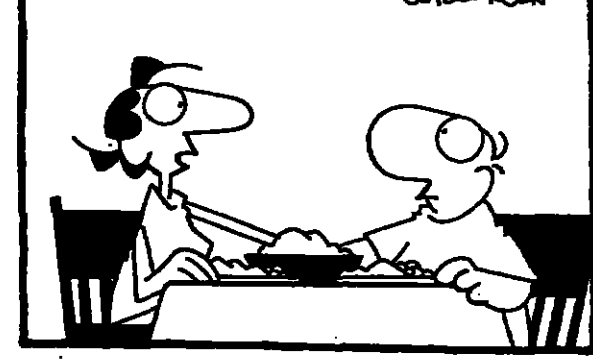
(January 21 to February 19) You're having a conflict with an older person, right? You can confide your innermost thoughts to a dear friend who lives far away. Don't do it on company time, though. That will just make your problem worse. Not even e-mail. OK then, don't let anybody catch you at it.

### PISCES

(February 20 to March 20) If bills are coming due, sell a toy you hardly ever play with anymore. You hate to part with it, but don't worry. Consider it a gift to somebody who can use it, and then to your creditors. This looks like a better day to sell than to buy, so don't go shopping later.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Are you holding my hand because you're feeling romantic or because you don't have a napkin to wipe it on?"

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BOGUM

VABER

GLUSKE

INMERY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGATE BILGE MUSH LANCER

Answer: What they heard around the fireplace on a cold night — A CHILLING TALE

**Business**

**Daily**

**Qualifications**

**REUTERS**

**The Bu**

**Energy**

**Gold Cross Rates**

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	1.48	1.49
Swiss Franc	1.52	1.53
Japanese Yen	1.54	1.55
British Pound	1.56	1.57
French Franc	1.58	1.59
German Mark	1.60	1.61
Italian Lira	1.62	1.63
Spanish Peseta	1.64	1.65
Portuguese Escudo	1.66	1.67
Greek Drachma	1.68	1.69
Israeli Sheqel	1.70	1.71
Indian Rupee	1.72	1.73
Pakistani Rupee	1.74	1.75
Sri Lankan Rupee	1.76	1.77
Thai Baht	1.78	1.79
Singapore Dollar	1.80	1.81
Malaysian Ringgit	1.82	1.83
Philippine Peso	1.84	1.85
Indonesian Rupiah	1.86	1.87
Brunei Dollar	1.88	1.89
Maldivian Rufiyaa	1.90	1.91
Nepalese Rupee	1.92	1.93
Bhutanese Ngultrum	1.94	1.95
Myanmar Kyat	1.96	1.97
Laotian Kip	1.98	1.99
Cambodian Riel	2.00	2.01
Siamese Baht	2.02	2.03
Thai Baht	2.04	2.05
Singapore Dollar	2.06	2.07
Malaysian Ringgit	2.08	2.09
Philippine Peso	2.10	2.11
Indonesian Rupiah	2.12	2.13
Brunei Dollar	2.14	2.15
Maldivian Rufiyaa	2.16	2.17
Nepalese Rupee	2.18	2.19
Bhutanese Ngultrum	2.20	2.21
Myanmar Kyat	2.22	2.23
Laotian Kip	2.24	2.25
Cambodian Riel	2.26	2.27
Siamese Baht	2.28	2.29
Thai Baht	2.30	2.31
Singapore Dollar	2.32	2.33
Malaysian Ringgit	2.34	2.35
Philippine Peso	2.36	2.37
Indonesian Rupiah	2.38	2.39
Brunei Dollar	2.40	2.41
Maldivian Rufiyaa	2.42	2.43
Nepalese Rupee	2.44	2.45
Bhutanese Ngultrum	2.46	2.47
Myanmar Kyat	2.48	2.49
Laotian Kip	2.50	2.51
Cambodian Riel	2.52	2.53
Siamese Baht	2.54	2.55
Thai Baht	2.56	2.57
Singapore Dollar	2.58	2.59
Malaysian Ringgit	2.60	2.61
Philippine Peso	2.62	2.63
Indonesian Rupiah	2.64	2.65
Brunei Dollar	2.66	2.67
Maldivian Rufiyaa	2.68	2.69
Nepalese Rupee	2.70	2.71
Bhutanese Ngultrum	2.72	2.73
Myanmar Kyat	2.74	2.75
Laotian Kip	2.76	2.77
Cambodian Riel	2.78	2.79
Siamese Baht	2.80	2.81
Thai Baht	2.82	2.83
Singapore Dollar	2.84	2.85
Malaysian Ringgit	2.86	2.87
Philippine Peso	2.88	2.89
Indonesian Rupiah	2.90	2.91
Brunei Dollar	2.92	2.93
Maldivian Rufiyaa	2.94	2.95
Nepalese Rupee	2.96	2.97
Bhutanese Ngultrum	2.98	2.99
Myanmar Kyat	3.00	3.01
Laotian Kip	3.02	3.03
Cambodian Riel	3.04	3.05
Siamese Baht	3.06	3.07
Thai Baht	3.08	3.09
Singapore Dollar	3.10	3.11
Malaysian Ringgit	3.12	3.13
Philippine Peso	3.14	3.15
Indonesian Rupiah	3.16	3.17
Brunei Dollar	3.18	3.19
Maldivian Rufiyaa	3.20	3.21
Nepalese Rupee	3.22	3.23
Bhutanese Ngultrum	3.24	3.25
Myanmar Kyat	3.26	3.27
Laotian Kip	3.28	3.29
Cambodian Riel	3.30	3.31
Siamese Baht	3.32	3.33
Thai Baht	3.34	3.35
Singapore Dollar	3.36	3.37
Malaysian Ringgit	3.38	3.39
Philippine Peso	3.40	3.41
Indonesian Rupiah	3.42	3.43
Brunei Dollar	3.44	3.45
Maldivian Rufiyaa	3.46	3.47
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Maldivian Rufiyaa	3.98	3.99
Nepalese Rupee	4.00	4.01
Bhutanese Ngultrum	4.02	4.03



# Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

## Jordanians seen lacking necessary qualifications to carry out large projects

**\*\* ACCORDING TO** Wasef Azar, general manager of the Jordan National Bank and first deputy to the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Jordanian management lacks the necessary qualifications to carry out large projects. As such, the opportunity should be made to have a strategic partner for Jordan to implement large projects.

Refusing that Israel be that strategic partner, Mr. Azar explained that the need for a partner is necessitated by objective and financial aspects related to lack of cadres capable of management and marketing and lack of financial resources. The success of any project requires sufficient expertise and financial, managerial and organisational capabilities... elements

that Jordan lacks.

Mr. Azar said new contemporary management in the world is founded on competitive bases and, in order to select a strategic partner for our projects, "we have to provide scientific means to achieve the best options."

"Israel has the constituents to become a partner and the government is the one which decides that. But I think that this is not required for what it may represent of Israeli infiltration of Jordanian national projects," Mr. Azar said adding: "The needed partner should possess the capability to satisfy the needs for development but not at the expense of political issues" (Al Arab Al Yawm).

## Jordanians take longest eating time

**\*\* ACCORDING TO** Yasser Akkash, president of the General Association of Restaurant Owners, Jordanian consumers take the longest time to eat their meals. On average, Jordanians take 25 minutes to eat breakfast, 60 minutes for lunch and 90 minutes for dinner bringing the total to 175 minutes for the three meals.

Germans and Italians come in second place as they take a total of 92 minutes (26 minutes for breakfast and 33 minutes each for lunch and dinner for the Germans and 13 minutes, 37 minutes and 42 minutes respectively for the Italians). The French spend 86 minutes on the three meals (14 minutes for breakfast, 34 minutes for lunch and 38 minutes for dinner) while the British spend 77 minutes (16 minutes for breakfast, 25 minutes for lunch and 36 minutes for dinner).

Americans and Japanese spend 71 minutes of the day on eating their three meals while the Spaniards take the shortest time of 69 minutes (12 minutes for breakfast, 30 minutes for lunch and 27 minutes for dinner) (Al Aswaq).

## Cairo bourse seen unfazed by world market slide

**CAIRO (R)** — Egyptian shares are expected to trade quietly Tuesday, unfazed by a global stock market slump which brokers said could ultimately benefit the Cairo bourse.

"The only stable and safe emerging markets are now those in the Middle East, especially Egypt," said Bassim Arida of Prime Securities. "It may take some time, perhaps a week or two, before foreign investors divert funds towards the region."

Arida said Egyptian stocks would also get a boost when a selection are listed on the international finance corporation's investible index on November 3.

Mark Krombas said some Egyptian scrips with GDRs had declined Monday due to the selling wave rolling around world markets after recent turmoil in South East Asian economies.

"Both Commercial International Bank (CIB) and Suez Cement shares were affected by the price fall of their GDRs and closed lower," he said, describing the fact that the often insular local market had reacted to events beyond Egypt's borders as "a healthy sign."

However, some dealers expected little of the global drama to be played out immediately on the Cairo exchange.

## Jordan shares unruffled by world market turmoil

**AMMAN (R)** — Jordanian shares closed barely changed on Tuesday in quiet trading unaffected by plunging bourses from Asia to New York.

The official 60-share Amman Financial Market index fell fractionally to 171.12 points from Monday's 171.21 points in trade worth just JD552,000 (\$780,000).

But the private Pearl Index of the 45 best-performing shares in terms of turnover and performance actually rose 0.10 per cent to 82.85 points.

Brokers said the global dip in share prices had bypassed the Amman bourse, which had already fallen in the last two weeks as a spate of foreign buying tailed after a September rush.

"As far as the Amman market is concerned shares have already reached levels where there isn't any supply at these prices," said analyst Mohammad Abdullah of Pearl Consulting.

"It's hard for them to go any lower because no one's prepared to sell."

Ibrahim Odeh of Watanieh Brokerage said the international fall in share prices would have a major effect in Amman only if Jordanians with international investments tried to sell off their local portfolios to cover foreign losses.

"People were talking about Hong Kong in the market today for the first time. But usually outside factors have little effect," he said, citing next week's Jordanian parliamentary

elections as a more likely source of concern to brokers.

He said foreign investors who jumped into the market on September 1 when Jordan lifted foreign ownership ceilings had held back for the last two weeks since a sell-off in the blue-chip Jordan Cement Factories (JOCMA).

The cement shares fell fractionally to JD3.20 on Tuesday in quiet trade worth under JD50,000. Heavyweight Arab Bank (ARBKAM) closed unchanged for a second day at JD3.30, also in light trade.

Overall falling shares outnumbered gainers by 18 to seven, while 17 others traded but closed unchanged.

## Tel Aviv Stock Exchange suspends trading after share prices plummet

**TEL AVIV (AP)** — The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange suspended trading for 45 minutes Tuesday after share prices plummeted more than 8 per cent in the first 15 minutes of trade, following Wall Street's lead.

The Mishkan index of the top 100 shares was down 8.4 per cent to 269.88, a drop of 24.82 points. The Maof index of the 25 blue chip shares slid slightly more than 8 per cent to 279.65, a fall of 24.44 points. Trade was halted after 15 minutes and resumed 45 minutes later at 1030 GMT.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refused to comment on the bruised Tel Aviv Stock Exchange Tuesday, but said the Israeli economy is "very strong" and in the final analysis, "a capital market reflects the strength of its national economy."

Israel is becoming the second-biggest high tech power internationally, and has something everyone in the world wants, Mr. Netanyahu said.

## REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 28/10/97 19:27									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	FRF	ITL	YEN	DM	DM
US Dollar	1.7288	0.5961	1.4093	119.80	1.4090	1698.30	1.9458	5.7875	
DE Mark	0.5785		0.3442	0.8193	88.34	0.8142	982.22	1.1273	3.4822
GB Sterling	1.6775	2.8990		2.3663	200.85	2.3636	2846.39	3.2651	9.7114
CHF Franc	0.7099	1.2248	0.4222		85.04	0.8998	1204.42	1.3832	4.1048
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4429	0.4987	1.1758		1.1749	14.16	162.42	4.8283
DM Dollar	0.7097	1.2781	0.4366	1.0522	1.17		1245.03	1.4375	4.2734
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0181	0.3506	0.0830	1418.84	0.8282		11.48	3.4078
NL Guilder	0.5139	0.8838	0.3058	72.38	81.48	0.7230	871.84		2.9732
FR Franc	0.1728	0.2987	0.1028	24.3445	20.69	0.2433	33.51	33.6100	

Middle Eastern Currencies									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	FRF	ITL	YEN	DM	DM
Jordan Dinar	1.4114	0.7088	3.7513	0.3770	3.6400	0.3028	3.6726	1536.00	3.3875
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1889	0.8292	0.5321	5.1376	0.4274	5.1638	2167.38	4.2882
Bahraini Dinar	2.65	1.3783	5.9504	0.1005	0.97	0.0807	0.98	409.46	0.9030
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0306	1.0306		0.0832	1.01	421.98	0.9309
Kuwait Dinar	3.3025	2.3398	12.3887	1.2450	12.02		12.13	5072.58	0.9386
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1929	1.0214	1.0107	0.9911	0.0824		418.23	0.9224
Libyan Dinar	0.65	0.4613	2.4423	0.2454	2.3688	0.1977	2.3910		2.2084
Egyptian	0.2952	0.2992	1.1074	0.1113	1.0745	0.0894	1.0842	453.43	

Energy									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	FRF	ITL	YEN	DM	DM
Brent	19.68	19.48							
NY Tite	21.00	20.95							
Bonny	19.68	19.48							
Oil	19.68	19.48							
UL Gas	203.00	203.00							

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	FRF	ITL	YEN	DM	DM
USD	5.57	5.60	5.75	5.70	5.84				
GBP	5.94	7.21	7.19	7.45	7.25				
JPY	0.41	0.42	0.43	0.41	0.38				
DEM	3.48	3.70	3.78	3.30	4.08				
FRF	3.38	3.53	3.70	3.83	4.00				
CHF	1.60	1.93	1.78	1.90	1.96				
ITL	6.69	6.55	6.28	5.94	5.68				

Main Equity Indices									
	Index	Change	Index	Change	Index	Change	Index	Change	Index
New York	DOW JONES	7270.67	109.52	1.53	7298.9	6971.07	7161.15		
New York	S&P 500	886.46	8.47	1.08	890.5	883.27	878.99		
London	FT-SE 100	4711.7	-129	-2.68	4840.7	4882.8	4840.7		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	16312.69	-725.67	-4.26	17018.9	16218.4	17098.4		
Paris	CAC 40	2651.33	-118.31	-4.27	2654.09	2475.01	2769.64		
Frankfurt	DAX	3567.22	-311.9	-8.04	3624.22	3487.24	3878.12		

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARISANI TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 28/10/1997										
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
346.000	245.000	ARAB BANK	15.2	1.21	6	220	72600	330.00	330.00	-
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	7	3100	5673	1.83	1.83	-
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	8.2	0.00	7	1000	2935	3.00	2.94	-0.06
2.600	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.1	6.23	16	5720	14555	2.55	2.54	-0.01
5.200	4.600	THE HOUSING BK.	15.1	3.83	6	17200	87032	5.06	5.06	-
4.180	2.440	JOR. KINATY BK.	11.80	0.00	4	408	3266	3.42	3.32	-0.10
1.050	740	JOR. GULF BANK	8.8	8.75	5	12000	9600	8.00	8.00	-
4.050	3.430	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.8	3.31	18	5000	18253	3.62	3.62	+0.01
3.900	3.080	JOR. INV. FUND BANK	24.6	0.00	3	1100	4213	3.83	3.83	-
1.900	880	SWIT. AL-HAL (BEITRA)	16.67	0.00	2	450	405	0.91	0.90	-0.01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 237.39	CHNG: -0.09	74	46198	216631			
2.050	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.1	5.32	12	22326	41981	1.88	1.88	-
1.010	820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.6	6.99	1	200	182	0.92	0.91	-0.01
810	480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	26.7	0.00	1	300	156	0.52	0.52	-0.02
8.500	6.700	ALMA'Y	15.8	5.68	21	4249	37239	8.50	8.80	+0.30
3.900	2.890	JORD. INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.7	0.00	7	3250	12114	3.74	3.73	-0.01
1.130	900	ZAKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	8	5225	4859	0.93	0.93	-
2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.2	6.36	6	1700	2941	1.73	1.73	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 112.09	CHNG: +0.26	56	37250	99471			
4.450	3.030	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	21.5	3.44	13	14650	46888	3.21	3.20	-0.01
11.160	9.070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.6	8.13	3	580	6346	10.91	10.94	+0.03
3.260	1.350	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	9	0.00	4	329	440	1.35	1.34	-0.01
7.150	5.800	JOR. NORTHERN MILLS	10.8	2.99	10	870	670	6.65	6.70	+0.05
4.700	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	11.7	4.71	11	3050	12963	4.25	4.25	-
2.800	2.150	JORDAN DARI	9.3	8.89	3	665	1804	2.80	2.75	-0.05
1.750	1.020	JOR. PIPELINES	13.8	7.21	27	8250	8937	1.06	1.11	+0.05
9.900	5.000	ARAB CASH. DISTRON.	19.9	4.62	6	1350	8775	6.50	6.50	-
1.480	1.050	NAFTA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	29	22150	30878	1.35	1.40	+0.05
6.000	4.300	DAR ALDIAVA DIV. INV.	13.9	4.41	3	1474	8352	5.70	5.67	-0.03
1.450	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.2	0.00	24	21650	10322	4.8	4.8	-
1.230	820	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRO.	25.4	0.00	11	3256	4732	0.83	0.83	-
1.770	510	NATIONAL INDS.	9	0.00	10	8300	4732	0.87	0.87	+0.01
1.200	510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	5	1000	972	0.54	0.54	-
890	530	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	9	0.00	1	1000	640	0.64	0.64	-
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	16.5	5.43	2	1000	1290	1.30	1.29	-0.01
1.400	610	KAUFER INVEST.	59.1	0.00	16	4900	2882	0.61	0.60	-0.01
1.880	1.080	UNIV. MODR. INDS.	9	0.00	21	7100	8711	1.23	1.22	-0.01
1.460	870	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	11.4	11.76	10	1635	1399	0.87	0.85	-0.02
1.620	1.300	NATL. CHLORINE	14.4	4.58	1	250	383	1.53	1.53	-
1.070	1.000	JOR. NEW CASE CO.	15.8	0.00	2	1000	860	0.87	0.86	-0.01
2.090	1.340	EL -RAY READY WEAR	51.0	0.00	3	1142	1654	1.45	1.45	-
1.130	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.6	0.00	16	16000	19303	1.22	1.21	-0.01
810	710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	2	1900	1444	0.76	0.76	-
840	580	MID-EAST COMPLEX	7.3	16.95	43	90080	52365	0.61	0.59	-0.02
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 116.04	CHNG: -0.05	261	213531	235663			
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 171.12	CHNG: -0.06	391	296979	551755			
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 28/10/1997										
710	410	NACH. POP. REPT. MAIN.	9	0.00	1	200	104	0.55	0.52	-0.03
810	380	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.1	0.00	26	35000	13300	0.39	0.38	-0.01
1.580	1.060	NARA FOR INVESTMENT	80.0	0.00	9	1500	1420	1.22	1.22	-
800	560	UNION INV. 50%	9	0.00	17	42220	11821	0.78	0.78	-
570	360	ARAB FVN. INVEST.	9	0.00	5	6750	2700	0.40	0.40	-
610	400	EL-DAMLEKH 75%	69.1	0.00	1	5000	72	0.07	0.07	-
400	200	JOR. INDS. MATCH-JEMCO	9	0.00	2	1500	315	0.22	0.21	-0.01
690	400	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	1	800	235	0.47	0.47	-
540	370	ARAB CASH. INV. FUND	43.5	0.00	14	4000	16900	0.37	0.36	-0.01
750	400	NATL. MILK INV. EMCO	9	0.00	15	20350	4140	0.40	0.40	-
1.200	890	READY MIX CONCRETE	13.8	0.00	1	100	114	1.20	1.14	-0.06
820	480	ARAB SELECT. INDS.	9	0.00	2	20000	9000	0.46	0.45	-0.01
660	580	MID-EAST PHARM. 75%	9	0.00	10	27907	1166	0.65	0.64	-0.01
1.400	860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	5	2350	2374	1.28	1.26	-0.02
730	550	RAZI PHARM. 85%	9	0.00	11	5465	2665	0.64	0.63	-0.01
290	470	INDS. SING.	8	0.00	9	300	813	0.77	0.73	-0.04
820	590	NATL. POULTRY	9	0.00	2	300	186	0.62	0.62	-
1.000	670	NATL. ALUMINIUM. 75%	91.8	0.00	15	7545	3100	0.67	0.66	-0.01
GRAND TOTAL					146	251744	96839			6

↑ New 12 months high  
↓ New 12 months low  
\* Listed during the past 12 months  
P / E ratio is 100 or more  
g : Negative P/E  
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year



## Sydney on course for successful Games in 2000 — Payne

SYDNEY (AFP) — Sydney had the best grouping of sports facilities in the world and was on course to successfully stage the 2000 Olympic Games, Atlanta Olympics chief organiser Billy Payne said here Tuesday.

Payne, the architect of last year's centenary Olympics, is a member of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Co-ordination Commission and is here to inspect the Australian city's preparations for the turn-of-the-century Games.

"You have the finest grouping of sporting facilities anywhere in the world. I don't impress easily, but I'm very impressed," Payne said at a breakfast seminar.

But the 50-year-old businessman, who Monday took a helicopter tour of the Olympic site at Homebush, warned Sydney would need to brace itself for inevitable criticism of the Games, no matter how well they were organised.

"I like to compare it to your daughter's piano recital. She wasn't the best, there was someone better, but at the same

time, it was pretty good and I think the Atlanta Games accomplished what it set out to do," said Payne.

The Atlanta Olympics were troubled by transport and technological glitches and were criticised for being entirely geared towards making a profit at the expense of the Olympic tradition.

Payne said while he was delighted Athens had won the right to stage the 2004 Games, it would not enjoy the same creature comforts and infrastructure that Atlanta and Sydney offered.

But he said the historic significance of Athens in the Olympic movement would remind the IOC and the world about the power of the Olympics to bring people together.

"If they ever forget about the power of what they (IOC) own, then going to Athens is going to remind these people what the power of the Olympics is all about," he said.

## English soccer crowds on the increase

LONDON (AFP) — Attendances in the English Football League — divisions one, two and three — continue to rise sharply, according to figures published on Tuesday.

Last season saw a massive increase throughout the three divisions of five per cent, and fans have continued to pour through the turnstiles in the new campaign.

At the end of this weekend's matches, over four million fans will have turned up to watch their team in action.

Football League spokesman Chris Hull said he was delighted by the figures.

He said: "Given we had such a phenomenal season last year, it makes this campaign's figures all the more remarkable and it goes to show the enduring nature of the world's oldest league competition."

Already this season the average attendance in the three divisions is 7,715, up 6.7 per cent on last season, with first division crowds are up by 12.5 per cent at an average of 14,129.



Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino (13) fumbles the ball October 27 as he gets hit by Chicago Bears defensive end John Thierry (91) early in the second quarter. The fumble rolled out of the endzone resulting in a safety for the Bears (Reuters photo)

## Feyenoord sack Haan

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Dutch First Division side Feyenoord sacked coach Arie Haan on Tuesday two days after a four-goal thrashing by Ajax Amsterdam.

Sunday's defeat, their third in a row, saw them slump to fifth in the league, 13 points behind leaders Ajax.

His assistant Geert Meijer takes over in a caretaker capacity.

Haan, 48, had been in charge since October, 1995.

Feyenoord, 2-1 losers at Old Trafford last week, play English side Manchester United in their return European Champions League match at Rotterdam on November 5.

Haan led Feyenoord to second place in the Dutch league last season but defeats to Manchester and Juventus appear to have put paid to any further progress in the Champions League.

Feyenoord club president Jorien van den Herik said Haan's sacking was regrettable but in the best interests of the club, and saved the coach from a confrontation with fans and the press.

Feyenoord allowed a clutch of internationals to leave in the close season, including goalkeeper Ed de Goey (Chelsea), Swedish forward Henrik Larsson (Celtic) and Dutch striker Gaston Taument (Benfica).

## Marshall fires Leicester City to 2-1 victory

LONDON (AFP) — A messy goal from Ian Marshall eight minutes from the end gave Leicester City the points at Filbert Street on Monday when Martin O'Neill's side saw off battling West Ham 2-1 to go fourth in the table.

Marshall was on hand at the end of an often untidy encounter in which five Hammers were booked to hit a scrappy winner, firing through a ruck of players after two efforts by colleagues were blocked and giving the Foxes their first win over the Londoners in 10 meetings.

Promising young striker Emile Heskey had put Leicester in front on 16 minutes with his first goal in eight games, beating the visitors' offside trap to bury a low right foot shot past Craig Forrest.

But the celebrations were cut short as Leicester, bidding to halt a run of four straight defeats in all competitions, found themselves pegged back as the impressive Eyal Berkovic slammed the equaliser after 58 minutes.

Energetic Welsh striker John Hartson weaved his way past two defenders and his low centre was hammered home by Berkovic.

West Ham had opened the second half on

the offensive and a dipping volley from Hartson flew inches over, before Frank Lampard failed to connect properly when clean through.

And they were finally undone by Marshall's late intervention for his fifth goal of the season which sent Leicester above Chelsea with 21 points from 12 matches, two behind third-placed Blackburn.

"We had built up a good head of steam but after four defeats people were starting to ask questions," said the former Ipswich star. "So it was great to get a result."

"I just like getting a game. Last season I was in and out of the team, playing up front and at the minute I'm playing back in defence whenever I'm needed."

"We haven't got the biggest squad in the world so when I'm called upon I don't mind where I play," Marshall added.

Berkovic claimed West Ham were the better side but conceded that Leicester's spirit had seen them through.

"We were unlucky today," the Israeli midfielder said. "I think we played very well. We passed the ball and had the chances to score another goal."

## Holyfield sights on Lennox Lewis

LONDON (AFP) — Evander Holyfield may be about to defend his WBA heavyweight title against fellow American Michael Moorer — but the man he is already setting his sights on is Britain's Lennox Lewis.

And WBC champion Lewis' manager, Frank Maloney, says his fighter cannot wait for a Holyfield showdown.

"Definitely that's the fight Lennox wants," Maloney told BBC Radio on Tuesday. "That's the fight everyone in boxing wants."

"We will be ringside next week when Evander defends his title. Providing he wins, and providing the politics (are right), the fight will hap-

pen some time in 1998.

Lewis erased any doubts about his ability to destroy a heavy-hitter when he hammered Andrew Golota two weeks ago in Atlanta City, knocking the Pole out in the first round.

And it was that triumph that thrust the British fighter deeper into Holyfield's thoughts.

"There's no doubt he's proving it. He's a two-time heavyweight champion of the world and he fought the people they put in front of him and he has been successful," Holyfield admitted.

"I look forward to beating Michael Moorer and if the fight can be worked out between Lennox and myself, then we'd have the fight between the two

best champions."

If Holyfield beats Moorer in Las Vegas on November 8, the showdown with Lewis is not a question of if, but when.

In the meantime, Lewis may be forced to face former heavyweight champion Buster Douglas, who is in the midst of making a comeback.

"There is a court order on Holyfield that he must defend the mandatory against the WBA, so we have to work the politics of it," Maloney explained.

"Otherwise, I'd say it would happen around the end of 98, around about September."



Chicago Bears' quarterback Erik Kramer (12) celebrates along with Chris Villarrial (58) and backup quarterback Steve Stenstrom (18) after defeating the Miami Dolphins 36-33 with a field goal in overtime. This is the Bears first win of the season (Reuters photo)

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Wolves agree fee for Ferguson

WOLVERHAMPTON (AFP) — English first division side Wolves have agreed a £500,000 (\$800,000) fee with Glasgow Rangers for Scotland midfielder Ian Ferguson. Wolves manager Mark McGhee has spoken to the player's agent after being given the green light by his Rangers' counterpart, Walter Smith. But he faces a major fight over wages to sign the 30-year-old, who has won nine championship medals at Ibrox. "He is out of our price range at the moment, although the deal is not dead and buried," McGhee said. "He is the type of powerful midfielder we need. He is a motivator and an intimidator as well as a winner."

### Rangers' Smith retires

GLASGOW (AFP) — Walter Smith, who guided Rangers to thirteen domestic trophies including seven league titles, confirmed Tuesday he will step down as manager at the end of this season. Smith, 49, took over the Ibrox post in 1991 but despite dominating the domestic scene during his reign the Glasgow giants have failed to reproduce the same form on a European stage. This season's defeats to Gothenburg in the preliminary round of the Champions' League and Strasbourg in the UEFA Cup stunned the club after a summer of heavy spending on new players.

### Russia leads in chess championship

LUCERNE (AFP) — Russia conceded a 2-2 draw in its match with Switzerland in the world team chess championship in Lucerne Monday but held a narrow overall lead after three rounds. The United States, which has held the title since 1993, closed the gap on the Russians to a half-point by beating England 2.5-1.5, joining England and Ukraine, which drew 2-2 with Cuba, in second place. Armenia and Kazakhstan drew 2-2 to keep up the pressure on the leading group, while Georgia, which has been the surprise of the tournament by fielding an all-woman team, continued to impress by beating Croatia 2.5-1.5. Standings: Russia 7.5 points, England, Ukraine and United States 7, Armenia 6.5, Kazakhstan 6, Georgia 5.5, Switzerland 5, Croatia 4.5, Cuba 4.

### No celebration for Villeneuve

TORONTO (AFP) — While Canada celebrated the crowning of its first-ever Formula One world champion, Jacques Villeneuve, hopes for a hero's welcome on Canadian soil appeared to have evaporated. Michael Dillon, the Toronto-based North American marketing and promotions co-ordinator for Villeneuve's Rothmans-Williams-Renault Racing team, said hopes for a homecoming celebration in Montreal had fallen through. "He's not coming," said Dillon, who added that he had attempted to arrange celebrations in Montreal and a press conference in Toronto.

### Koepke out with injured finger

MARSEILLE (AFP) — Marseille's German keeper Andreas Koepke will miss Friday's game against Cannes after fracturing his little finger in Saturday's draw at Bastia. Koepke, who is expected to be out for at least ten days, will be replaced by Francois Lemasson, who may remain between the sticks for the November 9 clash with leaders Paris Saint Germain.

### Amunike has knee surgery

MADRID (AFP) — Barcelona's Nigerian midfielder Emmanuel Amunike will be out for several months following a knee operation, the club announced. Club doctor Fernando Banos said he hoped the 26-year-old would be able to play in the "final months of the season" in time to make a claim for a place in the Nigerian World Cup squad. Kluivert unhurt after accident

### Kluivert escapes unhurt

MILAN (AFP) — AC Milan's controversial Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert escaped unhurt after a motorway accident late Sunday. Kluivert was on his way back to Milan from Monte Carlo when he hit the security barrier. Firefighters had to use a crane to extricate his vehicle. The former Ajax star was taken to a local police station before returning to Milan early Monday. Last year, Kluivert was sentenced to

240 hours community service and a three-month prison sentence for causing death by reckless driving. And in July, Dutch prosecutors ruled there was insufficient evidence to bring charges when a woman accused him of rape.

### Kahn accused of racism

MUNICH (AFP) — An ecological group accused Bayern Munich keeper Oliver Kahn of racism, claiming he had insulted Stuttgart's Nigerian star Jonathan Akpoborie in a match earlier this month. "David Contre Goliath" (DaCG), a radical "green" organisation, said Kahn called the striker a "nigger," which international keeper Kahn strenuously denied. Kahn insisted he had not insulted Akpoborie. "I would never do such a thing. I could not face my parents if I did."

### Belgian wins longest drive award

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgian amateur Emmanuel Janssens won an unusual 'longest drive' competition held on an airport runway — hammering the ball from one end to the other for a total distance of 501.4 metres. More than 250 golfers — men and women — tried their luck at the event, organised at Bierset, by the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) and the Royal Belgian Golf Federation. Golfing officials said Janssens' effort had fulfilled the necessary criteria to enter the Guinness Book of Records.

CINEMA	TEL: 634144	CINEMA	TEL: 634144	CINEMA	TEL: 699238	CINEMA	TEL: 677420	CINEMA	TEL: 079 35430	CINEMA	TEL: 079 33430	Hisham Yanes Theatre
PHILADELPHIA "1"		PHILADELPHIA "2"		PLAZA		CONCORD		GALLERIA 1		GALLERIA 2		TEL: 625155
Wesley Snipes & Patrick Swayze ... in				Van Damme... in		CONCORD "1"		ABDOUN		ABDOUN		Watch out for the new play
TO WONG FOO		007 GOLDEN EYE		DOUBLE TEAM		Tommy Lee Jones & Susan Sarandon ... in		Nicholas Cage ... in				THE GOVERNMENT
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CLIENT		CON AIR		SCREAM		IN THE SERVICE
						(12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)		Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45		Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		OF PEOPLE
						CONCORD "2"						Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas
						Alec Baldwin & Kim Basinger ... in						
						TOO HOT TO HANDLE						
						Shows: 3:30, 5:45 only						

Sports

Graf 15th in Tour ranking

Bolin leaves

Santoro wins Paris Indoor

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## JSF honours excelling swimmers today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Swimming Federation (JSF) will Wednesday evening honour excelling swimmers of the 1997 season.

HRH Princess Ghida Talal, the honorary president of the JSF will present awards to top swimmers including Hana Majaj and Omar Dallal who both won medals at the Pan-Arab Games and the Arab Youth Championships respectively.

A special award will also be presented to veteran Amer Wazani on his retirement from the sport after 18-years of top-level competition.

In addition local record-breaking swimmers and the national team coach will also be rewarded for their achievements.

## Graf 15th in WTA Tour rankings

MIAMI (AFP) — WTA Tour rankings released here Monday:

1. Martina Hingis (Svi)	6630 pts
2. Jana Novotna (Cze)	3590
3. Monica Seles (USA)	3429
4. Amanda Coetzer (Rsa)	3317
5. Lindsay Davenport (USA)	3307
6. Iva Majoli (Cro)	2955
7. Irina Spilrea (Rom)	2427
8. Mary Pierce (Fra)	2400
9. Arantxa Sanchez (Spa)	2157
10. Conchita Martinez (Spa)	2135
11. Mary Joe Fernandez (USA)	1971
12. Anke Huber (Ger)	1808
13. Sandrine Testud (Fra)	1693
14. Brenda S. McCarthy (Ned)	1672
15. Steffi Graf (Ger)	1663
16. Lisa Raymond (USA)	1448
17. Ruxandra Dragomir (Rom)	1443
18. Sabine Appelmans (Bel)	1429
19. Nathalie Tauziat (Fra)	1427
20. Barbara Paulus (Aut)	1424



Martina Hingis

## Brolin leaves Leeds back to Sweden

LEEDS (AFP) — Swedish international Tomas Brolin's two-year spell at Leeds was brought to an end on Tuesday with a financial pay-off.

Brolin's contract — due to expire next summer — has been terminated with immediate effect, leaving him free to negotiate his own move to another club. The financial settlement, which neither club nor player would disclose, is believed to be around £140,000, helping Leeds save up to £700,000 in wages on the remainder of his contract.

The 27-year-old Brolin, who played a leading role in Sweden's run to the 1994 World Cup semi-finals,

joined Leeds from Italian Serie A side Parma in a £4.5 million (about \$7 million) move two years ago but struggled to settle, spending loan periods at both Zurich and back at Parma.

Brolin is the last of five international stars — Ian Rush, Carlton Palmer, Tony Dorigo and Tony Yeboah were the others — who became outcasts under manager George Graham.

Rush, Palmer, Dorigo and Yeboah have all moved on to other clubs this season.

Brolin made just 19 Premiership appearances, costing Leeds almost £237,000 per match.

He spent loan spells at Grasshopper Zurich and Parma last season in a bid

to secure a desperate move away from Elland Road, but his apparent lack of fitness and previous injury problems shelved any potential transfer.

Brolin was also on the brink of joining Real Zaragoza earlier this season for £1 million, but an alleged wrangle over personal details meant he missed the Spanish transfer deadline.

## World Cup qualifiers Injuries, withdrawals hit Belgians; Italy face Russia

PARIS (AFP) — Eric Van Meir will replace injured sweeper Lorenzo Staelens in a Belgian team that has been rocked by injuries and withdrawals as they prepare for their World Cup first-leg playoff match against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on Wednesday night.

The loss of Staelens is a major blow to the Belgians, who are also without injured playmaker Enzo Scifo and Italian-based striker Luis Oliveira, who is suspended.

Belgian coach Georges Leekens will also have to do without experienced English-based defender Philippe Albert, who — in a piece of peculiar timing — last week announced his retirement from international football.

Belgium's hopes were expected to rest on strike duo Gilles de Bilde and Luc Nilis, who combined impressively for Dutch club PSV Eindhoven in their European Champions League victory over England's Newcastle United last week.

But De Bilde is suffering from a minor leg injury and will start on the bench. German-based Michael Goossens will partner Nilis up front.

"Ireland use the long ball and are very effective," said Leekens. "We'll have to struggle first, then use our technical skills."

The Dublin game is one of four European playoffs scheduled for Wednesday night with Croatia hosting Ukraine in Zagreb, Russia at home to Italy in Moscow and Hungary facing Yugoslavia in Budapest.

The return legs will be played on November 15 with the aggregate winners joining the 21 teams that have already advanced to next year's finals in France.

The Irish also have injury woes ahead of the Lansdowne Road match and will be without West Bromwich Albion striker Michael Evans, a recent signing from Southampton, for both playoff legs.

Evans suffered a double fracture of

his cheekbone in an accidental clash with teammate Jason McAteer during a weekend training session in Dublin.

Evans, who made his debut in the 1-1 draw with Romania in the final European Group Eight qualifier a fortnight ago, will be out of action for at least four weeks.

The Irish have only three recognised strikers fully fit and overseas-based pair Tony Cascarino of Nancy and David Connolly of Feyenoord are expected to start in the absence of Niall Quinn, Keith O'Neill, Jon Goodman and David Kelly. Spurs reserve Neale Fenn has been called up as a precaution.

The Irish are bidding for a third straight place in the finals after qualifying in 1990 and 1994 under Jack Charlton, and current boss Mick McCarthy is determined to ignore fan criticism of his tactics and emulate Charlton's successes.

"Criticism only makes me more determined to do the job my way," said McCarthy.

Russia have worries over injured captain Viktor Onopko for their meeting with Italy in icy Moscow, a match that will take place with the Italians still smarting over their 0-0 home draw with England which forced them into the play-offs.

With Onopko likely to be sidelined along with injured central defender Yuri Nikiforov, it is easy to understand the negative outlook of Russian coach Boris Ignatiev.

"Italy is the most terrible draw for Russia," said Ignatiev. "To go through against will be very difficult against a team that we fear, but we will try everything."

Italian coach Cesare Maldini refuses to concede his team are favourites. "There were eight good teams in the draw," he said. "There are no weak teams any longer."

The Italians go into the match without the suspended Angelo di Livio, but must realistically be confident.

Fabrizio Ravanelli, back on form after his move from Middlesbrough to Olympique Marseille, is expected to start alongside Atletico Madrid's Christian Vieri in a new-look attack that puts the emphasis on muscle.

Ukraine will face Croatia without two of Dynamo Kiev's suspended stars — midfielder Yuri Kalitvintsev and forward Andrei Shevchenko — although the squad still includes nine players from the Kiev team which humiliated Spanish giants Barcelona 3-0 in their Champions' League game last Wednesday.

While the Ukraine squad comprises players from just three clubs: Dynamo Kiev, Dnepr Dnepropetrovsk and Shakhtar Donetsk, Croatia's squad is, as usual, a selection of stars from throughout Europe — including the strong leagues in Italy, England and Spain.

Davor Suker, in fine form for Real Madrid, is expected to lead the Croatian attack.

"It will be a tough task but I feel confident we can win through," said Croatian coach Miroslav Blazevic.

Yugoslavia, apparently in need of a morale-boost, defeated a local selection from the town of Subotica 10-0 at the weekend as they prepared for their match away to Hungary.

The Yugoslavs, with a squad well packed with Italian and Spanish-based stars, will be favourites against a Hungarian team still counting their blessings at being in the play-offs.

The Magyars grabbed a play-off place in the last minute of their final group match when Finnish defender Sami Mähliö scored an own-goal in a 1-1 draw.

The Hungarians, though, look to face a tough assignment as they bid for their first finals appearance since 1986.

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## Santoro wins at Paris Indoor Open

PARIS (AFP) — Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, who won his first ATP title at Lyon two weeks ago, played with fire but managed to come through a gruelling error-strewn first-round clash against Magnus Larsson of Sweden at the \$2.5 million Paris Indoor Open on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old Frenchman, blamed by many for his part in France's Davis Cup World Group relegation at the hands of Belgium last month when he lost his singles, now plays 14th-seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands.

Santoro, who was completely outgunned by the big Swede in a first set which lasted just 21 minutes, admitted: "It wasn't a great match and I couldn't have played any worse than I did during that first set. But Magnus is a player I don't like playing. He had beaten me four times in six matches before today. I'm just glad I won — especially here at Bercy."

Before today's clash Santoro, who eventually won 6-6, 6-4, 7-6 (8/6), had

never won a match in four visits to the stadium.

In another early first-round match, Todd Woodbridge of Australia needed just 75 minutes to score a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Swedish qualifier Mikael Tillstrom.

Woodbridge now plays sixth-seeded Carlos Moya of Spain.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH

#### USE HIGH TRUMPS WISELY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH  
♠ 10 5  
♥ A 8 6 3  
♦ A 3 2  
♣ A K J 10

WEST  
♠ Q 8 7 2  
♥ Q 10 9 4  
♦ 8 2  
♣ 8 4

EAST  
♠ 4 3  
♥ K 7 5 2  
♦ 8 6 5  
♣ 8 7 6 5 3

SOUTH  
♠ A K 9 6 4  
♥ Void  
♦ K Q 10 7 4  
♣ Q 3

The bidding:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
1NT Pass 4C Pass  
2NT Pass 4S Pass  
3NT Pass 5D Pass  
4S Pass 7C Pass  
Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

It is a common error to look at a hand from declarer's point of view only. Often the key to success is to consider what would happen if dummy were the master hand.

North-South conducted a superb auction to an excellent grand slam. North's four hearts was a cue-bid in support of diamonds and, on learning that partner held both the ace

and king of clubs, South committed the hand to a grand slam.

Sadly, declarer's play did not justify the bidding. South won the first trick in dummy, discarding a spade from hand, cashed two rounds of trumps, then played off the king and ace of spades. Best ruff, and that was the end of South's dreams of bringing home a vulnerable bonus.

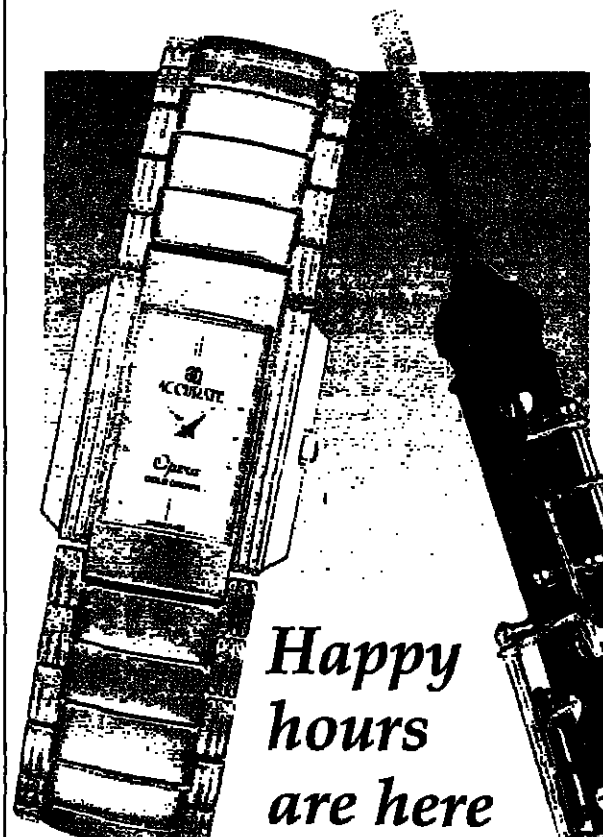
Before deciding how to play the hand, declarer must know how trumps are divided. Correct technique is to ruff the opening lead in hand, lead a trump to the nine and cash the ace of trumps. If either defender shows out on the second trump, declarer must go after spades as above — that is the only hope.

When trumps split 3-2, however, the high trump in dummy allows for a line which depends only on clubs being no worse than 5-2. Declarer ruffs a heart, crosses to the ten of clubs, then ruffs the remaining low heart with the closed hand's last trump. Dummy is re-entered with a club, the last trump is drawn, and the ace of hearts, dummy's remaining club winners and the ace-king of spades take the last five tricks. Declarer scores three trumps and three ruffs in hand, two spades, one heart and four clubs.

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# Netanyahu defies Washington with hard-line on main issues

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Openly defying the United States, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government refused Tuesday to hold promised negotiations in Washington on the central issues blocking Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.

David Bar-Ilan, Mr. Netanyahu's media advisor, said the government had no intention of budging on either issue due to have been at the centre of high-level talks in Washington this week: Jewish settlement construction and overdue Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank.

"Israel will hand over no more territory to the Palestinians as long as they are not engaged in a war against terrorism," said Mr. Bar-Ilan in a refrain which has blocked progress on the peace process for months.

Mr. Bar-Ilan said there was also no chance Israel "will offer a gesture on settlements under the current circumstances."

He said eventual talks in Washington should focus only on "security matters" related to opening a Palestinian airport and an industrial zone in Gaza, side-issues left over from interim

peace agreements.

Mr. Netanyahu's intransigence led his foreign minister, David Levy, to refuse to leave for meetings due to have begun Wednesday in Washington with Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), under the mediation of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

The talks, agreed to by Israel last month, were to focus on U.S. and Palestinian demands that Israel observe a "time out" in construction of Jewish settlements in occupied areas and on the troop withdrawals. Mr. Netanyahu's hardline stance on the two issues led to the breakdown in negotiations last March.

Mr. Levy complained publicly that Mr. Netanyahu had failed to give him any guidelines for possible concessions on either issue and that he would not go to Washington "to meet just for the sake of meeting."

In a rare show of U.S. pique at Mr. Netanyahu's foot-dragging, the State Department's top spokesman called Israel's stance "frustrating" and said "time should not be lost" in getting negotiators Levy and Abbas together for substan-

tive negotiations.

Mr. Levy met with Mr. Netanyahu Monday and said progress had been made in trying to lay down some negotiating guidelines.

But the right-wing prime minister then went before parliament later in the day and disparaged peace agreements with the Palestinians in some of the strongest terms he has used since coming to office 19 months ago.

In a clear sign he has little intention of carrying out Israeli obligations under interim peace accords signed by his Labour predecessors, Mr. Netanyahu dismissed the deals as "a one-sided agreement... where we are doing everything and they are doing nothing."

Mr. Netanyahu said a Palestinian rejection of his proposals to skip over interim peace accords requiring more land handovers and jump into negotiations on a final peace settlement proved that the PNA "is not interested in true peace but only wants to attain assets and rights which will serve as instruments to maintain the struggle against us."

Mr. Netanyahu has for months refused to implement the interim accords, charging

that President Yasser Arafat has not lived up to his end of the bargain by cracking down on radicals responsible for terror attacks against Israel.

The Palestinians, supported by many Israelis, say Mr. Netanyahu is using the security issue as an excuse to avoid implementing peace agreements which he never supported.

Messrs. Levy, Netanyahu and the rest of the cabinet were due to hold a new round of talks about the negotiations on Wednesday, but Israel Radio said there appeared little chance an agreement would emerge permitting Mr. Levy to travel to Washington.

For the Palestinians, Mr. Netanyahu's refusal to extend self-rule and his persistence in expanding Jewish settlements in areas where Palestinians hope to create their own state are proof he is trying to torpedo the peace process.

"This all proves that Netanyahu just wants negotiations for the sake of negotiations, so he will have a shield behind which to continue his policies against the peace process," chief PNA negotiator Saeb Erakat told Agence France Presse.

## Israel to further open Hebron's 'street of strife,' settlers protest

HEBRON (AFP) — Israel announced Tuesday that it would partially lift restrictions this week on Palestinian use of a street which runs through the heart of Hebron's Jewish enclave and has been the scene of frequent conflict.

But Palestinian National Authority officials quickly rejected the move, saying that under a January agreement between the two sides, Shuhada Street should have been fully opened to Palestinians at least three months ago.

Local settlers also announced they would protest the move, which they say will leave them open to attacks by activists.

Israel's army closed Shuhada Street (Martyn's Street) to Palestinians in 1994 amid rioting which followed the slaughter in a nearby mosque of 29 Muslims by a Jewish extremist.

An Israeli military spokesman said that as of Wednesday morning, Palestinian emergency and municipal vehicles would be allowed to use a new section of Shuhada Street running by Jewish settler homes.

Palestinians who live on Shuhada will also be able to drive on the section,

Lieutenant Peter Lerner said.

A second section of the street will be open to Palestinian taxis and buses as part of a staged reopening of Shuhada to the Arabs which has been fiercely opposed by the 400 militant Jewish settlers living in Hebron, he said.

"This is a first stage and there will be further steps if this one is successful," Lt. Lerner told Agence France Presse (AFP). "If we have security problems tomorrow, however, we will review our plans."

Under the U.S.-brokered January agreement, Israel withdrew its troops from four-fifths of Hebron, a city of 120,000 Arabs, retaining control of 20 per cent of the city where the 400 settlers and around 15,000 Palestinians live.

The accord called for Shuhada Street to be reopened in stages within four months.

But the only move to date was an army agreement on Feb. 2 to let emergency and municipal vehicles and taxis use a 150-metre section of the street.

Further easing of the restrictions were halted when peace talks broke down

between the two sides in March after Israel began building a new Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natsheh angrily rejected the Israeli offer as too little too late.

"We have tried this partial opening before and we don't need to do it again," he told AFP.

"We are already behind schedule and we don't see any reason why the Israelis should be afraid of opening this street, which is central for traffic in the city centre," he said.

Settler leaders announced that they would hold a protest Wednesday morning over the latest expansion of Palestinian access to Shuhada street, which they said would lead to attacks against Jews and Jewish settlements along the street.

Since the January agreement, the U.S. has spent \$2 million widening Shuhada street and providing new sidewalks, lighting and sewage systems.

The construction crews, overseen by an American foreman, have been the target of frequent stone-throwing and harassment by Jewish extremists.

## Elite veterans sign petition against Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (AP) — More than 100 veterans of the elite commando unit that Benjamin Netanyahu once belonged to Monday sent the prime minister a petition protesting his vilification of the dovish opposition.

The petition refers to Mr. Netanyahu's statement in a conversation with a leading rabbi last week that the opposition has "forgotten what it is to be Jewish." The statement was caught by a microphone and broadcast, sparking an uproar.

"It's difficult for us to believe [Netanyahu] was in Sayeret Matkal," the petition said. "Your divisive and ugly statement is totally opposed to the spirit of the unit and disgraces all of us. You have forgotten all we learned together."

The statement was signed by more than 100 retired officers and soldiers of Sayeret Matkal, an elite commando unit famed for its daring cross-border raids and anti-terrorist activities.

Mr. Netanyahu served in the unit in the 1970s, when his commander was Ehud Barak, who now leads the opposition Labour Party.

## Progressive Jews agree to delay fight with Orthodox

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Reform and Conservative Jews agreed Tuesday to suspend lawsuits seeking recognition of their movements in Israel as part of a deal to avoid a head-on collision between U.S. Jewry and Israel's Orthodox religious establishment.

In exchange, Orthodox parties in Israel's coalition government agreed to suspend until January legislation which would formalise the Orthodox rabbinate's monopoly over religious life in Israel, officials said.

Leaders of the Reform and Conservative groups announced their decision to freeze their Supreme Court appeal for three months after meeting with President Ezer Weizman and a top Orthodox rabbi in the Orthodox establishment. The lawsuit was to have been heard by the court on Wednesday.

Tensions had risen sharply Monday when the Reform and Conservative leaders refused to delay their court bid to gain recognition, saying Israel's Orthodox establishment was not interested in a real compromise over the issue.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose parlia-

mentary majority depends on support from Orthodox religious parties, accused the Reform leaders of siding with the opposition in an attempt to bring the conflict to a vote and topple his government.

Reform leader returned that the Orthodox leadership in Israel, by treating the more progressive movements as heretics, were trying to spark a Jewish civil war.

The row threatened to turn into a full-fledged confrontation between Israel and the world's largest Jewish community in the U.S., which is overwhelmingly Reform.

U.S. Jews who gave Mr. Netanyahu key campaign contributions for his election in 1996 and provide substantial funding for various Israeli projects have threatened to cut off the money if the government went ahead with the Orthodox legislation.

Mr. Netanyahu is scheduled to address a major congress of U.S. Jewish groups in Indiana on Nov. 16.

But under strong pressure from across the political spectrum in Israel and following an appeal from President Ezer Weizman, cooler heads prevailed and

officials Tuesday expressed confidence that a compromise could be worked out over the next three months.

"Today I'm more optimistic than I was yesterday," said Alex Lubosky, a member of parliament from Israel B'Aliyah, a party of mostly Russian immigrants which is opposed to the Orthodox monopoly.

"We still have a lot of work to do in these three months but I believe we can reach an agreement," he said on Israel Radio.

Trying to avoid a parliamentary showdown in what is known here as the "Who's a Jew?" dispute, Mr. Netanyahu formed a government committee five months ago to seek a compromise between the Orthodox and liberal streams of Judaism.

But the Orthodox later rejected a committee proposal that Reform and Conservative rabbis be allowed to participate in conversions and other religious ceremonies while leaving control over the rites in the hands of the Orthodox chief rabbinate. Orthodox rabbis said such a proposal would legitimize heretical views which threaten the foundations of Judaism.

## Rebel Kurds kill 11 Turkish troops

ANKARA (AFP) — Separatist Kurdish rebels killed 11 members of Turkish security forces in a raid on a village in the country's troubled southeast on Tuesday, the Anatolian news agency said.

A large group of Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels armed with rockets and heavy machine guns attacked a military unit in Dagalti village in Sirnak province on the border with Iraq, it said.

Seven soldiers and four pro-government Kurdish guards were killed in the raid and six soldiers were injured. The rebels later fled.

The attack came amid an ongoing withdrawal of thousands of Turkish troops from neighbouring northern Iraq where they had been fighting the PKK in an army incursion launched on Sept. 23.

More than 27,000 people, including rebels, troops and civilians, have been killed in PKK-related violence in Turkish territory alone since 1984.



Stockbroker Ibrahim Kurtulus, 29, of the Staten Island borough of New York, swipes at the nose of the bull statue which stands at the corner of Broadway and Morris Street in New York's financial district, Tuesday. Mr. Kurtulus said he has been tapping the bull's nose for good luck, before going into work each morning, for five years (AP photo)

## Saddam sets scene for showdown with U.S. over U.N. arms probes

BAGHDAD (AFP) — President Saddam Hussein chaired a meeting of Iraq's top decision-making body on Tuesday to decide whether to freeze cooperation with U.N. arms inspectors, setting the scene for a showdown with Washington.

The U.S. State Department has warned Baghdad of "serious consequences" if President Saddam approves a recommendation from the Iraqi parliament to freeze ties with the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of the country's disarmament.

A break in relations would be unprecedented, despite six years of bumpy relations with UNSCOM, notably over Iraq's refusal to grant the inspectors access to sites that it says are sensitive for national security.

The official news agency, INA, said President Saddam opened a meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) "to examine the recommendations adopted by the national assembly" and passed on to the Iraqi leadership.

Parliamentary Speaker Saadun Hammadi, speaking to the RCC and leadership of the ruling Baath Party, deliv-

ered a report on relations with the United Nations, INA said.

The parliament on Sunday called for the cut with UNSCOM, in defiance of the U.N. Security Council, until Iraq received assurances that the seven-year-old embargo would be soon be lifted.

The threat comes in retaliation for Security Council Resolution 1134 passed last Thursday to impose a travel ban on Iraqi officials who continue to block UNSCOM inspections.

State Department spokesman James Rubin said Monday that "Iraq has an obligation to cooperate [with UNSCOM]... All members of the Security Council believe that, even if there are tactical differences."

Iraqi frustration has mounted over the sanctions imposed after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. An oil embargo can not be lifted until UNSCOM certifies that all Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have been dismantled.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, quoted in the press, charged UNSCOM was "holding up an announcement that its mission is completed so as to maintain the embargo although Baghdad has hon-

oured its commitments on banned arms."

Newspapers said Iraq saw no hope of the sanctions being lifted in the near future because the United States, its foe in the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait, was dictating U.N. policy.

"The aggressive behaviour of the U.S. has reached such a point that keeping silent... would be tantamount to accepting a slow death for millions of Iraqis," said the official daily Al Iraq.

The U.S. is "determined to prolong the unjust embargo for years to come," it said.

Babel, a daily run by President Saddam's eldest son Uday, said that "any confrontation" over a break with UNSCOM would "pit Iraq not against the U.N. but against the U.S."

It referred to the split in the ranks of the Security Council permanent members in the vote on the U.S.- and British-sponsored Resolution 1134, in which China, France and Russia abstained.

"For the Iraqi people, who have made such sacrifices over the last seven years, to blow up the abcess of the embargo and put an end to it once and for all would be the lesser evil," it said.

## Misha'al affair infuriates Israeli spy jailed in U.S.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Jonathan Pollard, an Israeli spy serving a life term in the U.S., expressed fury and shame Tuesday that Israel had not put the same effort into obtaining his release as it did to free two agents captured on an assassination mission in the Jordanian capital, Amman, last month.

In a phone conversation with his wife Esther which was recorded and played on Israel Radio, Pollard said fellow inmates and even wardens in his U.S. prison had chided him about Israel's success in getting Jordan to release the two agents of Israel's Mossad intelligence service.

The Israelis were caught on Sept. 25 after attempting to murder Khaled Misha'al, a top Hamas official on an Amman street.

Israel recovered the agents by promising to release 70

Palestinian prisoners, including the spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.

"I feel ashamed not only by the fact that we were able to get the two Mossad agents out of Jordan... but that the government has refused to even make a minimal effort on my behalf," he said.

"Clearly this Misha'al affair shows that the government knows how to get its agents out, that it knows how to act when it wants to... these two agents didn't have to rot for years in a foreign prison," said Pollard, his voice charged with emotion.

Pollard, a former U.S. navy intelligence analyst, was arrested in 1985 and condemned for treason two years later for passing military secrets to the Jewish state.

He gained Israeli citizenship last year but has been unable to force Israel to formally acknowledge his role as a spy for Mossad.

Esther Pollard was due to submit a petition to Israel's Supreme Court on Wednesday seeking to force the government to recognise Pollard's action, help pay his legal costs and release classified documents concerning his spying. A similar court action last year failed.

In the phone conversation, Pollard complained angrily that the Mossad agents in the Misha'al affair "sure as hell didn't have to take their government to court, to sue them to take responsibility and to do the right thing."

But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected his charges, telling Israel Radio that he had directly asked U.S. President Bill Clinton for Pollard's release.

President Clinton has refused to pardon the spy.

Williams knew he was going to make a lot of meaningless noise

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Quirky comedian Robin Williams is soon to launch his new holiday film "Flubber," which features a rubbery kind of creature. Being on a set with a lot of toys — an experience he also enjoyed during his film "Toys," four years ago — was a nostalgic experience for Williams. "I love toys," Williams said. "My favourite toy as a child was my drum set, but my father took it away from me when he was sure I wasn't going to be a musician. He knew I was just going to make a lot of meaningless noise all my life."



Paltrow says Freeman is sexiest man alive

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Gwyneth Paltrow, expecting great accolades for her upcoming "Great Expectations," has moved on from ex-fiance Brad Pitt and man-of-the-moment is one of his ex-co-stars (and hers) in "Seven." "Everyone is making all this fuss about Brad Pitt," giggled Gwyneth. "Well, I'm sorry, I'm telling you that Morgan Freeman is the sexiest man alive." Women have often thought of Freeman as a sex symbol, which makes him tongue-tied and flushed. When asked about Gwyneth's admiration, Freeman could only croak out, "Um, that's nice."

Yeltsin gets 5th grandson

MOSCOW (AFP) — Boris Yeltsin's eldest daughter Elena has given birth to a baby boy, providing the Russian president with a fifth grandchild, presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said Tuesday. Yeltsin was to travel to the Kremlin hospital to visit his daughter and the baby later in the day.

Yastrzhembsky added, a name has not yet been chosen for the newest member of the Yeltsin family. Elena Okulova already has two daughters, Masha and Katya, by her husband Valery Okulov, who is head of the Russian airline Aeroflot. Yeltsin, 66, has two other grandsons — Boris, 16, and Gleb, — who are the sons of his youngest daughter, Tatiana Diachenko, who was this year appointed presidential advisor.

Singapore sets up society for sexually ignorant

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore doctors appalled at the level of sexual ignorance in the small but wealthy nation have set up a national society to fight it, the Straits Times newspaper said. It quoted the doctors as saying they had come across couples unable to consummate their marriage for years because they did not know how to make love. So they set up the society for the study of andrology (male infertility) and sexology, saying the ignorance and male infertility were linked. "When a couple does not know how to engage in sexual intercourse, it results in infertility, too," the newspaper quoted the society's vice president, Ganesan Adaikan, as saying.

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